

Shultz, Menshikov agree on summit

WASHINGTON (R) — U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz and a senior Soviet communist advisor Sunday agreed that a top-level meeting between the two superpowers would be useful. "It seems to be a moment when it would be useful to review the bidding — not with no preparation and not on the basis of chit-chat or just getting to know you — but on the basis of reviewing all of the various substantive issues that are deep and difficult," Mr. Shultz said on a U.S. television programme. Appearing via satellite from Moscow, Stanislav Menshikov, advisor to the Communist Party's Central Committee, said a possible meeting between President Reagan and the new Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev should centre on substantive matters. In a letter to Mr. Gorbachev delivered by U.S. Vice President George Bush last week, Mr. Reagan expressed a willingness to meet his new counterpart.

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University of Jordan
Center of Strategic Studies
READING ROOM

Thani, Isa receive King's message

DOHA (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein has sent a message to Qatari ruler Sheikh Khalifa bin Hamad Al Thani dealing with current Arab affairs and coordination among Arab countries to end the 53-month-old Iran-Iraq war. The message was delivered in Doha by Jordan's Ambassador to Qatar Khaled Obeidat. Sheikh Khalifa has requested the ambassador to convey greetings to King Hussein and his appreciation for his efforts to safeguard Arab interests. A similar message was sent to Bahraini ruler Sheikh Isa bin Salman Al Khalifa. Bahraini Crown Prince Sheikh Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa received the message on behalf of Sheikh Isa from Jordan's Ambassador in Manama Ahmad Al Hindawi.

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Egyptian speaker to hold talks in London

CAIRO (R) — The speaker of Egypt's parliament, Refa'at Mahgoub, flew to Britain Sunday on a five-day visit for talks with Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher and other officials on Middle East problems, an official statement carried by the Middle East News Agency said. Mr. Mahgoub's visit followed talks in London this weekend between Mrs. Thatcher and Egypt's President Hosni Mubarak, who said he had received the backing of the British prime minister for his Middle East peace proposals. Mr. Mahgoub will also visit Washington for talks with U.S. officials.

Fahd receives Turkish premier

RIYADH (AP) — Saudi Arabia's King Fahd Sunday received visiting Turkish Prime Minister Turgut Ozal Sunday for a discussion that covered the 53-month-old Iran-Iraq war, the Palestinian problem and bilateral relations. Diplomatic sources said, Saudi Arabia and Turkey have been prominent advocates of a mediated settlement between the two warring Gulf countries whose hostilities took a turn for the worse lately with reciprocal attacks on each other's cities. Turkey has good relations with both Baghdad and Tehran. The Turkish prime minister arrived Saturday on a three-day official visit at the invitation of the Saudi Crown Prince Abdullah.

Zia receives Iranian message

ISLAMABAD (R) — Pakistan President Mohammad Zia ul Haq has received a special message from Iranian President Ali Khamenei, the official APP news agency reported Sunday. It said the message was handed to Gen. Zia by Iranian special envoy, Deputy Foreign Minister Mohammad Bashari. APP did not disclose its contents. Gen. Zia is a member of an Islamic committee which has been working for peace between Iran and Iraq since 1981.

Shultz, Gromyko may meet in Vienna

VIENNA (R) — U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz will visit Vienna in May for celebrations marking the 30th anniversary of Austria's state treaty and Soviet Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko is expected. Foreign Minister Leo Gratz said Sunday. Mr. Gratz said in a television interview that the celebrations on May 15 could provide an opportunity for a meeting between the two men. Mr. Gratz said Mr. Shultz had confirmed he would be coming and Mr. Gromyko was expected to confirm his visit within days.

Armocost arrives in Peking

PEKING (R) — U.S. Under-Secretary of State Michael Armocost arrived in Peking Sunday for talks on foreign policy and said he would discuss the new Soviet leadership of Mikhail Gorbachev with Chinese officials. Mr. Armocost, who is under-secretary of state for political affairs, said at Peking airport his visit was part of a process of broad discussions on foreign policy issues which Peking and Washington began five years ago.

Gulf war hits new peak with air raids, battle for key road

Iraq, declaring Iranian airspace as 'prohibited war zone', warns airlines

BAHRAIN (Agencies) — Iraqi and Iranian troops were battling Sunday for control of a strategic road in southern Iraq and at least three ships were attacked in the Gulf, as Iraq warned international airlines to stay out of Iranian airspace.

Heavy fighting was reported in marshes east of the Tigris River as the Iraqis, who launched a big attack there six days ago, battled to force it and seize the vital highway from Baghdad to the southern port of Basra.

Reuters quoted "informed sources" in Tehran as saying Iranian troops had already taken 10 kilometres of the road, but there was no official confirmation of the report. A Baghdad newspaper quoted an Iraqi commander as saying the Iraqis crossed the river Saturday but were driven back.

Both sides reported inflicting heavy casualties in the fighting, which Iraq described as the fiercest of the war.

Iraq said it had killed or wounded over 7,000 Iraqis since its offensive began and Iraq's information minister said 15,000 Iraqis had been killed Saturday alone. Neither side gives details of its own casualties.

Cutting the road would leave Basra, Iraq's second city with a population of one million, linked to the north by only one road from the west.

The official army daily Yarmouk quoted army field commander Major-General Hisham Sabah Al Fakhr as saying the Iraqis had crossed to the West Bank of the Tigris River but were repelled.

"Our forces succeeded in purging the western bank of the Tigris from enemy forces," he said. An Iraqi communique Saturday night said Iranian forces had reached the Tigris in the fiercest fighting since the war broke out in September 1980.

Meanwhile, at least three vessels, two of them tankers, were hit in strikes by both Iran and Iraq Sunday spread over hundreds of kilometres of the vital waterway, conduit for almost a third of the West's oil supplies.

Gulf shipping sources said a Liberian tanker, the Caribbean Breeze, was hit in an apparent Iranian attack off Qatar and 10 crewmen hurt, three seriously. The ship, chartered to Kuwait's National Oil Company and carrying 1.8 million barrels of Kuwaiti crude, was set ablaze but the fire was later put out.

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Hijack of Saudi plane foiled at Dhahran

RIYADH (Agencies) — A hijacker armed with a hand grenade seized a Saudi Arabian airliner over Riyadh Sunday but was killed by security guards after the plane landed for fuel at the east coast city of Dhahran, an official statement said.

The statement from the Defence and Aviation Ministry said none of the 76 passengers or 21 crew aboard the Boeing 737 were hurt.

The plane had been on a flight from Jeddah on the Red Sea coast to Kuwait via Riyadh when the pilot warned of the hijack when near the Saudi capital at 2:50 p.m.

The statement said the pilot told the unidentified hijacker the aircraft would have to land at Dhahran for fuel before flying on to an unspecified point.

When the plane landed at Dhahran, "the passengers were brought off the aircraft without any harm to any of them," the statement said.

It said attempts were made to negotiate with the hijacker, but these failed.

"When the hijacker used the grenade, the aircraft security guards were able to shoot him dead," it said, adding that the plane had suffered slight damage.

Riyadh airport sources quoted by the AP said the hijacker was an expatriate North Yemeni national working in Saudi Arabia.

Last November, another North Yemeni man hijacked a Saudia TriStar jetliner to Tehran, Iran, with 117 passengers and 14 crew members aboard.

GCC ministers debate means to end war

RIYADH (R) — Gulf Arab foreign ministers heard a plea Sunday for international efforts to stop the Iran-Iraq war as the 53-month-old conflict exploded into fresh violence.

The Saudi Press Agency (SPA) said Kuwaiti Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmad Al Sabah told fellow ministers from the six-nation Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) grave developments were affecting the security and stability of the region.

He called for more efforts to end the war and halt attacks on civilian centres.

The ministerial meeting was scheduled before the current flare-up in the conflict, which has seen some of the bitterest fighting of the war in the marshlands of southern Iraq.

Iraq Sunday declared Iranian air space a war zone, warning foreign airlines to keep away as more ships were hit in the tanker war in the Gulf itself.

Sheikh Sabah in his speech Sunday stressed the need to work with the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC), the Non-Aligned Movement and friendly countries to end the war. SPA reported.

On leaving Kuwait for the meeting earlier Sunday, he said the "dangerous escalation of the war" would top the agenda.

He said it was premature to say what prospects existed for the ministers from Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) to initiate contacts aimed at solving the issue.

"But we will spare no effort in doing everything that might end this war," he said.

(Continued on page 2)

Peres: Lebanon pullout pace quickened

WASHINGTON (R) — Israeli Prime Minister Shimon Peres said Sunday Israeli troops would be "mostly out of Lebanon" within eight to 10 weeks.

Mr. Peres, in a U.S. television interview, also strongly opposed the idea of a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation meeting with the United States without Israel being present.

He said his government wanted the Israeli army to complete its current withdrawal from Lebanon as soon as possible.

"I would say that in a matter of eight to 10 weeks we shall be mostly out of Lebanon," he said.

Mr. Peres denied the army had an "iron fist" policy against resistance men attacking Israeli forces in southern Lebanon. He said the policy was to protect the lives of Israeli soldiers.

He said Israel rejected proposals by Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak for a U.S. meeting with a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation.

"What would be the purpose of a joint delegation coming to Washington but to create the illusion that Washington will try to impose a solution on Israel?" Mr. Peres asked.

He said Israel would be ready to talk directly to a delegation that did not include the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

He reiterated his willingness for Israeli talks with a Jordanian-Palestinian delegation in Cairo, with U.S. participation.

Secretary of State George Shultz, in a separate television interview, said Middle East leaders were realising they had to make their own decision to move the peace process forward.

"I think the message that we have tried to give over there — namely that if peace is going to come about the parties out there are going to have to think it over and decide some things for themselves — that message has gotten through," he said.

He said the United States was prepared to take actions, "but we want to see some antitoxin on the table by everybody, and that's beginning to happen and that's a healthy process."

Mubarak arrives today

By a Jordan Times Staff writer

AMMAN — President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt arrives here today, Monday, to brief His Majesty King Hussein on the Egyptian leader's talks in Washington and Western Europe on renewed moves for peace in the Middle East and bringing the U.S. into adopting a more active role in efforts for a just solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict.

The Jordanian News Agency, Petra, said Mr. Mubarak, who returned to Cairo Saturday after a nine-day tour of the U.S., France, Britain, West Germany and Italy, will brief the King on the outcome of his visit.

Petra quoted a Royal Court statement as saying Mr. Mubarak will also make a "comprehensive assessment of the current Arab moves in the international scene aimed at reaching a peaceful and just settlement to the Palestinian problem." It added that Mr. Mubarak and the King would also review the latest developments and situation in the 53-month-old Iran-Iraq war.

It will be the second meeting between Mr. Mubarak and the King in two weeks. They met in the Egyptian port city of Hurgada on March 6 and at the time Mr. Mubarak said he would meet with King Hussein on his return from the U.S. and Europe to brief the King on the outcome of the visit.

Egypt's Middle East News Agency (MENA) said Mr. Mubarak on Saturday briefed Iraqi President Saddam Hussein on the outcome of his visit to the U.S. and Europe and the two presidents exchanged views on latest Middle East developments in a telephone conversation.

Upon return to Cairo Saturday from Venice, Italy, the last stop in his visit, Mr. Mubarak said he saw no alternative to his new Middle East peace initiative and that the United States has neither accepted nor rejected it.

He told reporters in Cairo he was not disappointed by President Reagan's apparently cool response to his proposals.

"We cannot say the American reaction was negative or positive," he said. "We were not seeking a reaction."

He told a reporter who asked about his talks in the U.S. "Why do you assume this was a disappointing visit? I can tell you that I cannot assume that. I do not agree with that..."

"I did not go there to ask for any decision. I went to explain our thoughts, exchange views and to discuss how to tackle the Feb. 11 agreement" between Jordan and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), he said.

"Of course there was no rejection as was written in the New York Times and there was no definite acceptance of course," Mr. Mubarak told reporters.

"I did not ask for either. I just asked them (the Americans) to put in front of their eyes our conceptions, our views, our ideas, just to keep the momentum going," he added.

"I think they are studying it (the proposal) and I do not think they are going to have a quick reaction in a day or two," Mr. Mubarak said.

Mr. Mubarak has proposed that

(Continued on page 2)

U.S. dialogue with joint team is must for peace, King says

AMMAN (J.T.) — The United States must take part in the Middle East peace process by opening a dialogue with a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation and any negotiations must involve the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO). His Majesty King Hussein was quoted as saying Sunday.

"I have done my utmost to move towards peace," King Hussein said in an interview published in Sunday's editions of the New York Times. "We must not miss this opportunity... this is the last chance."

President Ronald Reagan was cool to a similar appeal from Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak last week. The Reagan administration has objected to the idea of such talks without Israel and without the PLO's recognition of Israel.

King Hussein said the Feb. 11



accord between Jordan and the PLO was "historic," and represents the last chance for peace in the Middle East. He said it was a sharp departure

from previous PLO policy, and that it meant the PLO had accepted United Nations Security Council Resolution 242.

That resolution calls for the return of Israeli-occupied territory in exchange for recognition of the right of all states in the area to exist within recognised borders.

King Hussein, speaking at the Al Nadwa Palace, said the accord meant that the PLO had effectively renounced force to pursue a settlement that would lead eventually to negotiations.

The accord, King Hussein said, also indicated the PLO is willing to accept a state confederated with Jordan.

King Hussein also said Jordan agreed with the PLO on two clarifications shortly after the accord was signed. The clarifications involve the makeup of any joint delegation formed to pursue peace talks, the Times said.

Jordan's per capita income falls for first time in 5 years

By John Rice
The Associated Press

AMMAN — Jordan's economy, sharing the troubles of oil-rich Arab Gulf states, grew by only 2.4 per cent after inflation in 1984, according to preliminary estimates cited Sunday by a senior official.

The figure quoted by Industry and Trade Minister Jawad Al Anani indicates that 1984 saw the first decline in per capita income since 1979 and the first sustained slow-growth period since 1973-74, when sharp oil price increases joined the Kingdom.

The government estimates that population grows by about 3.8 to four per cent a year. It now stands at about 2.5 million.

Dr. Anani, speaking by telephone, said he did not have the specific gross national product figure at hand. But he said the Department of Statistics within his ministry calculated the 1984 GNP at 2.4 per cent above the 1983 GNP at 2.4 per cent above the 1982 GNP.

Per capita GNP stands at roughly JD 740.

Sudden, sharp oil price increases stunned Jordan's economy in the early 1970s, but the country then capitalised upon them by sending hundreds of thousands of workers to the Gulf and by receipts of grants from the oil countries.

Jordan's economy grew explosively in the 1970s, but economists say it is now suffering ripple effects from the slow oil market.

"We never expected that bonanza to last forever," Dr. Anani said in a recent interview.

The Central Bank of Jordan estimates that Arab budget support to Jordan slipped to JD 124 million in 1984 from JD 196.6 million in 1983.

A decade of sharp growth in remittances sent back by workers in the Gulf also ended last year, Dr. Anani said remittances for 1984 will be about equal with the JD 402 million sent home in 1983.

Dr. Anani said the gross domestic product — income from domestic activities — rose by three per cent in 1984, according to preliminary estimates.

He said the country had made significant progress in reducing its

massive trade deficit, cutting imports to JD 1,043 million in 1984, from JD 1,103 million the year before.

He said recently that exports had reached roughly JD 230 million up from JD 160.1 million in 1983.

The last time GNP growth trailed population increase was in 1979, when GNP increased by 3.4 per cent after inflation, reaching JD 921.3 million dinars. Those figures were influenced by a 29 per cent rise in the cost of housing that year.

The Central Bank's monthly report for January 1985, issued Sunday, showed that the cost of living in Jordan fell by 0.8 per cent in January, mainly due to increases in the government-controlled price of food. The decrease appeared abnormally sharp because it followed a 1.9 per cent increase in December.

The 3.9 per cent inflation rate for 1984 was the lowest since 1968's mild deflation. The country was then suffering the shock of the Israeli occupation of the West Bank. The West Bank had accounted for 40 per cent of Jordan's GNP.

2 Israelis killed, 5 injured in S. Lebanon

BEIRUT (Agencies) — Two Israeli soldiers were killed Sunday morning and five were wounded in an ambush in South Lebanon, the Israeli military command announced in Tel Aviv.

The fatalities brought to 640 the official number of Israelis killed in South Lebanon since Israel invaded in June 1982, including 17 killed this month.

The soldiers were killed when light weapons were fired at an Israeli army patrol near Jibehit, a village about eight kilometres south of Nabatieh, the command said.

Israeli military officials added that a 25-kilogramme roadside bomb exploded as an Israeli patrol passed near the village of Jouwaya, but caused no casualties.

Meanwhile, Israeli troops raided two more villages in the occupied zone Sunday as they continued their four-week attempt to stem resistance activity.

An Israeli unit searched the village of Baflay northeast of Jouwaya for six hours and left at midday with three detainees, said Timur Goksel, spokesman for the U.N. Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL).

French soldiers of the U.N. peacekeeping force observed the seven-hour operation from positions in and around the village. They reported that only brief bursts of gunfire were heard and that no one was injured.

Another armoured Israeli unit raided the village of Atta near Jibehit at daybreak, and troops were still searching houses at mid-afternoon, reporters in South Lebanon said.

Syrian threat fails to deter Falange rebels

BEIRUT (Agencies) — Lebanon's mostly Christian Falangist militia Sunday kept up its revolt against Syrian-backed plans for a political realignment in favour of Muslims, despite increasingly tough warnings from Damascus and Syrian troop movements in north Lebanon.

Warnings by Damascus that it will not stand idly by were followed by weekend Syrian troop deployments on the northern boundaries of territory held by the rebels in President Amin Gemayel's Falange Party.

Lebanese security sources said three Syrian brigades were deployed on a 25 kilometre front from the Beirut-Tripoli coastal highway into hills a few kilometres south of Tripoli.

In Damascus, the government newspaper Tishrin said Syria wanted no return to factional fighting in Lebanon but was backing the Beirut government against the rebels "with all its resources."

"The Lebanese should act as quickly as possible to root out all those who have worked and are still working against unity... compromises with traitors are fruitless," Tishrin said.

Al Baath, organ of Syria's ruling Baathist Party, said the Falangist rebels should be "surrounded, stripped of power and rooted out forever from Lebanon."

Syrian Defence Minister Mustafa Tlass was quoted Sunday as saying Syria was sending troops to Beirut in a bid to help President Gemayel against the rebels.

"Orders have been issued to (Syrian) troops in northern Lebanon to move toward Beirut and help the legitimate government of President Gemayel confront the mutineers," Lieutenant-General Tlass told the Kuwaiti newspaper

Al Qabas.

Despite the tough Syrian stance, Beirut newspapers quoted Prime Minister Rashid Karami as telling confidants Saturday that Syrian troops would only intervene at the request of the Beirut government.

But the reports said President Gemayel was not expected to ask the Syrians to fight his opponents, and the Syrian moves appeared aimed at forcing them to accept a political solution.

Rebel spokesman Karim Pakradouni said later he had held "good" talks with Syrian Vice-President Abdul Halim Khaddam and believed Syrian troops would not attack.

"It is improbable that the Syrians will invade our territory," Mr. Pakradouni said, adding that he would have more talks with Mr. Khaddam in the next 48 hours.

Mr. Pakradouni, a leading right-wing ideologue, was answering questions at the first rebel press conference since the revolt began last Tuesday.

"We have not received any help, be it military, political or any other, from Israel," he declared.

He said the rebels had succeeded in bringing democratic changes in the Christian community and would soon announce formation of a constituent assembly to draw up a constitution for a democratically-elected Christian national council.

"This is not a coup d'etat against the regime of President Amin Gemayel," he said. "It is a coup within the Falangist party and the 'Lebanese Forces'."

"We asked Gemayel to stay above partisan conflicts in the party and we have indications that

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Israel not to interfere in Lebanon rift, Kimche says

TEL AVIV (AP) — Israeli government officials signalled Sunday that despite a longtime alliance with Lebanon's Falangists Israel will not intervene to protect pro-Israeli Falangist militiamen against a threat by the Syrian army.

But Israel is watching developments for any danger to "its own security," said David Kimche, director-general of the Foreign Ministry, who is a top policymaker on Lebanon.

So far "we have no need to act in this matter," he said in a radio interview.

Syria has pledged to help Lebanese President Amin Gemayel, leader of the Falange Party, put down a rebellion of militiamen who oppose Mr. Gemayel's close ties with Damascus.

Israel has warned Syria in the past against moving its forces into areas Israel evacuated in its withdrawal from Lebanon, expected to be completed in late summer.

But it has announced no policy about a specific Syrian move against Beirut, where Syrian troops and armour have moved to the edge of the Falangist heartland.

Government spokesman Yossi

Beilin denied that Israel had held contacts with either side in the Falangist dispute.

A senior Israeli official said he did not believe the rift "would affect Israel." "Let them fight and solve their own problems," said the official, speaking on condition he was not identified.

The official, who spoke after attending a meeting of Prime Minister Shimon Peres' cabinet, said the Syrian threat was not discussed, another indication that Israel saw no impact on its own interests in Lebanon.

Israel's 1982 invasion of Lebanon, initially launched to protect its northern border against Palestinian commando attacks, was broadened to help the Falangist emerge on top in Lebanon's civil war and to establish a stable pro-Israeli government.

Relations with the Falangists, strained after Mr. Gemayel's acting

under Syrian pressure, abrogated a security pact with Israel a year ago that would have allowed Israel to stage an orderly troop withdrawal with guarantees for its border.

Communications Minister Amnon Rubenstein told reporters after the cabinet meeting Sunday that he was prevented from raising his proposal to speed up the unilateral pullout approved by the Israeli government on Jan. 14.

Mr. Rubenstein, of the dovish Shinui Party in the seven-party ruling coalition, wants to discuss combining the last two stages in the three-phased withdrawal plan. That would take Israel's army out of most Shi'ite-populated areas quicker than scheduled.

He said he was stopped by a procedural rule that barred discussion for two weeks while the Defence Ministry weighs the idea.

"I hope that by the end of these two weeks I shall get the item on the agenda. I think that the issue has not disappeared. On the contrary, it is aggravated by the daily casualties that we suffer in Lebanon," he said.

Shamir rejects Mideast peace talks with PLO

MONTREAL (AP) — Peace can be achieved in the Middle East with patience but not with the Palestinian Liberation Organisation (PLO), Israeli Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir said Saturday.

Speaking to a welcoming crowd of 1,500 in a local synagogue, Mr. Shamir said that Israel was willing to hold peace talks with Egypt and Jordan but not the PLO.

"PLO and peace, it's a contradiction," he said. "Israel will be in the Middle East forever."

Mr. Shamir said he believed Israel could achieve peace with its Middle East neighbours but only if Israel were strong. "The existence of the state of Israel is the only true guarantee of the Jewish people," he added.

Mr. Shamir said it was essential for Israel to hold peace talks with neighbouring Jordan and Egypt, the only Arab nation with which Israel has made peace.

"It is very important to start the process even if you are not getting immediate positive results," he said.

Mr. Shamir, who is on a six-day visit to Canada, said earlier this week that Egyptian efforts to involve the PLO in Middle East peace negotiations ignore the fact the PLO is doing all it can to re-establish itself in Lebanon.

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U.S. army general tours Gulf states

DOHA (R) — Qatari Crown Prince and Defence Minister Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani had talks Sunday with the commander-in-chief of the U.S. Central Command Force, army Gen. Robert Kingston. U.S. embassy officials said.

They did not give details of the talks which coincide with an escalation of aerial, ground and naval attacks by Iran and Iraq in their 53-month-old war.

Gen. Kingston, who is based in Florida, had already visited Bahrain and is due to go to the United Arab Emirates and Oman Monday, they said.

Shipping sources in the Gulf said a U.S. Navy ship, which they

Islamic Jihad claims 3 Beirut abductions

BEIRUT (R) — An anonymous telephone caller speaking in the name of the shadowy "Islamic Jihad" organisation claimed responsibility Sunday for the kidnappings of an American journalist and two Britons in west Beirut.

He said the group was responsible for Saturday's seizure of Terry Anderson, Middle East bureau chief for the Associated Press news agency, and for those of Britons Geoffrey Nash and Brian Levick on Thursday and Friday.

The caller stated no conditions for the release of the three men but said their abductions were part of a campaign to rid Lebanon of foreign spies.

"The detention of Terry Anderson, Brian Levick and Geoffrey

Nash comes within the framework of our continuing operations against America and its agents," the caller said.

"We are certain that Islamic Beirut is full of agents from all sides and accordingly we are working day and night to purge our region of any subversive element of the (Israeli intelligence agency) Mossad, The (American) Central Intelligence Agency or allied intelligence agencies," he added.

The caller issued a "final warning" to foreigners in Beirut against undertaking "subversive activities."

He said that "assuming the profession of a journalist, merchant, industrialist, scientist or man of religion will from now on be of no avail to spies living amongst us."

Pope calls for peace in Gulf, Lebanon

VATICAN CITY (AP) — Pope John Paul II called Sunday for an end to the war between Iran and Iraq and led prayers for the "sad situation" in Lebanon.

"With deep suffering, one hears every day news about more dramatic urban centres and civilian objectives... between Iran and Iraq," Pope John Paul said during his weekly noon blessing.

"It is news that intimately sad-

dens and makes stronger the hope that both parties... will dispense themselves with good will to negotiations that will finally permit an end to this exhausting war that for years has afflicted these dear peoples," he said in Italian.

"Our thoughts go at the same time also to Lebanon, whose sad situation continues to increase reasons for agitation and worry," he said to 10,000 people gathered in sunny but windy weather in St. Peter's Square.

"It is a nation that for too long has suffered atrociously, unfortunately also because of internal discord and division," he said from his apartment window overlooking the square.

Pope John Paul said the people of Lebanon are close to him "in affection and prayer" and called on the people in the square "to pray with me to the Holy Virgin, queen of peace" for peace in Lebanon.

Mubarak arrives today to brief Hussein on talks in U.S., Europe

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Washington start talks with Jordan and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) to explore ideas outlined in the Feb. 11 plan. Talks with Israel would follow later, according to his plan.

But Washington has refused to be drawn into direct negotiations with the parties to the Middle East conflict, wanting direct talks between Israel and the Arabs.

The U.S. is so far also keeping a pledge to Israel not to talk to the PLO until it explicitly recognises the Jewish state, and reports in Washington spoke of a "rebuff" to Mr. Mubarak.

Israel has also rejected the proposal because it excludes the Jewish state in the first step and bring in the PLO to talks.

President Reagan has described the Egyptian proposal and the Jordan-PLO accord on which it was based as "promising beginning" but said it did not go far enough.

U.S. officials, briefing reporters after Mr. Mubarak's talks in Washington, said the Reagan administration opposed U.S. Palestinian dialogue until the PLO clearly accepts U.N. Security Council

Resolution 242, which calls for Arab recognition of Israel in return for Israeli withdrawal from lands occupied in 1967.

Osama Al Baz, Mr. Mubarak's chief political adviser, told the Cairo newspaper Al Gounhouria that the United States "had no business" vetoing PLO participation in peace talks.

The AP quoted a source close to PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat as saying Saturday that in the coming weeks Egypt and Jordan would try to agree on names of Palestinians who might be acceptable to both the PLO and the U.S. as members of the proposed joint delegation.

"Why don't the Americans talk to our people?" said the Cairo-based PLO official. "The dialogue need not be publicised. In that dialogue we will tell them about the acceptance of 242, and we can also discuss names of Palestinian negotiators."

PLO sources in Cairo told the AP that the organisation would agree to non-PLO members serving as Palestinian representatives but they insisted the PLO must have the right to approve them in advance.

The U.S. has said it will send

Assistant Secretary of State Richard Murphy back to the Middle East to keep up the momentum toward peace.

Mr. Mubarak said Saturday the purpose of his meeting with Mr. Reagan was to see how the Feb. 11 agreement could further peace, adding: "I do not think that anybody will find any other alternative to what we proposed."

While in Washington, Mr. Mubarak criticised the U.S. refusal to be actively involved in peace talks as a "defeatist attitude" that could play into the hands of hardliners.

There has been more support for Mr. Mubarak's initiative from Europe. Italian Prime Minister Bettino Craxi gave the plan another boost Saturday after three hours of talks with Mr. Mubarak in Venice.

Mr. Craxi said the European Community (EC) would support a Middle East peace initiative based on the Jordan-PLO agreement for a joint negotiating team, adding the support could come from a community summit in Brussels at the end of this month.

Mr. Mubarak also made a three-day visit to Britain and stopped

over in West Germany on his way back from Washington, after visiting Paris on his way there.

Asked in Cairo Saturday about his talks with West European leaders, he said: "I believe everybody understood the Egyptian point of view."

In Venice, Italian officials said Mr. Mubarak told Mr. Craxi and Foreign Minister Giulio Andreotti that while Washington was not yet ready to talk to the PLO, it had not ruled out the possibility.

Mr. Craxi said many prejudices and difficulties had to be overcome but he believed even the United States would eventually add its backing.

"The situation is moving in the right direction and we are all committed to supporting it. The European Council will do the same," said Mr. Craxi, who currently holds the community's rotating presidency.

Mr. Mubarak Saturday visited the Soviet embassy to offer his condolences over the death of President Konstantin Chernenko and spent nearly an hour with Ambassador Alexander Belonogov.

Speaking to reporters later, Mr. Mubarak reiterated his support

for an international peace conference on the Middle East, rejected by both the United States and Israel.

"We have said before one hundred times, we are not against the idea of an international peace conference at all but the important point is to have an international conference which all parties concerned agree upon," he said.

Mr. Mubarak stressed that no special significance should be attached to the meeting with the Soviet diplomat so soon after his return from Washington.

"The USSR is a superpower and its presence has died," he said.

Mr. Mubarak, who restored ties with Moscow in July 1984, said he discussed bilateral relations with Mr. Belonogov and described the relationship with the Soviet Union as good.

He told reporters he has "no plans right now" to visit the Soviet Union.

The Soviet Union's position is that an international conference would be better equipped to solve the Middle East conflict. Both Israel and the United States reject the idea.

UNIFIL caught in middle of resistance war

CAMP SHAMROCK, Lebanon (AP) — U.N. Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) are in an increasingly uncomfortable position in South Lebanon, stuck in the middle of an escalating war between Israeli troops and resistance fighters.

A confusing array of emblems denote the conflicting authority along the bumpy road leading to Camp Shamrock, headquarters of the 650-man Irish Battalion near the Lebanese village of Tiban 15 kilometres north of the Israeli border.

Sandbagged Irish checkpoints in the powder blue and white colours of the United Nations are interspersed with positions of the Israeli army flying their flag and roadblocks of a pro-Israeli militia known as the South Lebanon Army (SLA) under the red-and-white Lebanese flag with its distinctive green cedar tree.

"It is not comfortable. In fact, it is very uncomfortable," said Maj. Brian McKevitt, who has spent the past four months in South Lebanon.

But the 10-nation, 5,850-member force has been able to offer humanitarian services such as medical care to the local population and maintain the zone where 300,000 people live in relative peace.

"We are quite happy that by the mere fact of our presence in the area we act as an enormous restraining force on elements within the area," said Maj. McKevitt.

Irish and French forces attempting to observe Israeli search-and-arrest sweeps of Lebanese villages have been involved in confrontations with Israeli sol-

diers and their militia allies during which U.N. soldiers say they have been threatened.

"The Israelis have from time to time issued threats to Irish troops that if they continue following they would shoot at the troops," Maj. McKevitt said.

The latest incidents came in the nearby village of Yater, where Maj. McKevitt said a patrol of Israeli-backed militiamen accompanied by an Israeli officer was ambushed on March 13. One militiaman was wounded, and resistance fighters seized three militia cars.

Irish Maj. Pat Keogh said a U.N. ambulance that tried to leave the village with a woman who had been shot five times in the exchange was delayed for a half-hour by pro-Israeli militiamen who fired over the ambulance and on the road in front of it to stop the vehicle. The woman eventually reached a U.N. field hospital and was recuperating.

"An Israeli vehicle blocked the road and I went up to talk some sense into them. They fired over my head, about six of them (pro-Israeli militiamen)," said Maj. Keogh. "The reason they gave for stopping the ambulance was that we were halting their operation."

On March 15, Irish soldiers exchanged fire near Yater with unknown attackers who opened fire on a five-man patrol with small arms and an anti-tank weapon. U.N. spokesman Timor Goksel said. No casualties were reported.

U.N. officers said a pro-Israeli militia position near Yater had been attacked almost nightly since the March 13 incident and that

U.N. positions were hit in the exchanges, prompting Irish soldiers to fire warning shots.

Thus far, no direct clashes have been reported between U.N. troops and Lebanese resistance fighters.

But a document signed "the Islamic resistance" was circulated to some Western embassies in Beirut warning of reprisals against the U.N. force for allegedly helping Israel's army.

"The experience we have had of the United Nations since they arrived suggest the (U.N. force) has been both the observer and protector of the invasion army," said the Pamphlet, adding anyone aiding the Israelis would "get what he deserves."

Being in the middle of a cross-fire is not new to the U.N. force which has lost 103 soldiers since being sent into Lebanon in 1978 following Israel's 91-day invasion of South Lebanon that year.

Before Israel's second invasion in June 1982, the U.N. force was sandwiched between Palestinian commandos to the north and Israeli-backed militiamen and Israel's army to the South.

Although Israel has no direct say in extending the mandate, Israel Radio this week quoted military sources as saying they leaned against renewing the six-month mandate which expires on April 19.

However, U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar issued a statement Feb. 27 saying U.N. force "has no right to impede Lebanese acts of resistance against the occupying force, nor does it have the mandate or the means to prevent countermeasures."

TV & RADIO

JORDAN TELEVISION	23:05	Evening Show Contd.
17:00	24:00	Close down
17:00		Koran
17:30		Cartoons
17:30		Children's Programme
17:50		Children's Programme
18:20		Wonderful World of Plants
18:40		Local Programme
19:00		Programme Review
19:30		News in Arabic
19:40		Local Programme
20:00		Local Programme
20:35		Local Programme
20:45		Arabic Series
21:00		Tomorrow's Programmes
21:55		Arabic Series
23:00		News in Arabic
FOREIGN CHANNEL		
18:00		Le Petit Theatre
18:30		Prelude A La nuit
19:00		News in French
19:15		Sport Magazine
19:30		News in Hebrew
20:00		News in Arabic
20:30		Duty Free
21:10		Sorrell and Son Eps. 3
22:00		News in English
23:20		The Yellow Rose
RADIO JORDAN		
855 KHz. AM & 99 MHz. FM		partly on 9560 KHz. SW
07:00		Light Music
07:30		Newsdesk
07:45		Morning Show
08:00		News Summary
08:05		Pop Session
08:15		News Summary
08:25		Pop Session Contd.
08:30		News Bulletin
08:40		Instrumentals
08:45		Over a Cup of Tea
08:50		Concert Hour
09:00		News Summary
09:05		Instrumentals
09:10		News Bulletin
09:15		The 5th Century A.H.
09:20		Pop Session
09:25		News Summary
09:30		Sports Round-up
09:35		Special Feature
09:40		News Bulletin
09:45		Date with a Star
09:50		Evening Show
09:55		Evening Show Contd.
10:00		News Summary
10:05		Evening Show Contd.
10:10		News Summary

WHAT'S GOING ON

TODAY'S EVENTS	EXHIBITIONS	LECTURE	THEATRE	CULTURAL CENTRES	CHURCHES	PRAYER TIMES
06:00 Newsdesk 06:30 Goldfinger 06:45 Letter from London 06:55 Reflections 07:00 World News 07:00 Twenty-Four Hours: News Summary 07:30 Letterbox 07:45 Recording of the Week 08:00 Newsdesk 08:30 Time Remembered 08:40 World News 08:45 Twenty-Four Hours: News Summary 09:30 Sarah and Company 10:00 World News 10:00 Reflections 10:15 Goldfinger 10:30 Anything Goes 11:00 World News 11:00 British Press Review 11:15 Waveguide 11:25 Good Books 11:40 Look Ahead 11:45 Peetles' Choice 12:00 News Summary 12:15 Science in Action 12:30 Music Now 12:50 World News 12:50 News About Britain 12:15 Sins of Old Age 13:30 Album Time 14:00 Radio Newsdesk 14:15 Announcer's Progress 14:45 Sports Round-up 15:00 World News 15:00 Twenty-Four Hours: News Summary 15:30 The Elements of Music 16:00 Outlook 16:45 At Home With... 17:00 News Summary 17:15 Music Now 17:45 Sins of Old Age 18:00 World News 18:00 Commentary 18:15 Mediterranean Dialogue 18:30 Seven Wonders of the Modern World 18:45 The World Today 19:00 World News 19:00 Book Choice 19:15 My World! 19:45 Sports Round-up 20:00 Newsdesk 20:30 The Arts 21:00 Outlook 21:30 Sports Round-up 21:45 Peetles' Choice 22:00 World News 22:00 Twenty-Four Hours: News Summary 22:30 Sports International 23:00 Network UK 23:15 Short Takes 23:30 Rock Salad 24:00 World News: The World Today 00:25 Book Choice 00:30 Financial News 00:40 Reflections 00:45 Sports Round-up 01:00 World News 01:05 Commentary 01:15 Seven Wonders of the Modern World 01:30 Announcer's Programme	* An exhibition of plastic art by the Jordanian artist Mrs. Janet Jumblatt at the Royal Cultural Centre. * The national book exhibition at the University of Jordan library. * An art exhibition by Arslan Ramadan at the University of Jordan library. * An exhibition of historical photos from the East and West banks of Jordan at the University of Jordan library. * An exhibition of computers and electronics at Yarmouk University. * Agricultural exhibition at the University of Jordan.	* A lecture on Mind, Brains and Computer Models by Dr. Murray Eden at 3:30 p.m. Monday at the Royal Scientific Society (RSS).	* "Rhinoeros" by Eric Eycheenne at 8:00 p.m. at the French Cultural Centre.	Royal Cultural Centre - tel. 661026/7 American Centre - 44371 British Council - 41520 British Council - 36147-8 French Cultural Centre - 37009 Goethe Institute - 41993 Soviet Cultural Centre - 44203 Spanish Cultural Centre - 34049 Turkish Cultural Centre - 39777 Haya Arts Centre - 66195 Hussein Youth City - 667181 Y.W.C.A. - 41793 Y.W.M.A. - 664251 Amman Municipal Library - 36111 University of Jordan Library - 843555	St. Joseph Church (Roman Catholic) Jabbal Amman. Tel. 24590. Church of the Annunciation (Roman Catholic) Jabbal Lubdibeh. 37440. De I Salk Church (Roman Catholic) Jabbal Hussein. 661757. Church of the Annunciation (Greek Orthodox) Jabbal, 23541. Anglican Church (Church of the Redeemer) Jabbal Amman. 25383. Armenian Catholic Church Ashrafieh. 771531. Armenian Orthodox Church Ashrafieh. 775261. St. Ephraim Church (Syrian Orthodox) Ashrafieh. 771751. Amman International Church (Inter-denominational): meets at Southern Baptist School in Shamsiyya. 816534.	04:21 Fair 05:42 (Sunrise) Doha 11:45 Dhur 15:10 'Aar 17:46 Maghreb 19:09 'Isha

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT	MARITIME TRAFFIC	MONEY EXCHANGE	WEATHER
This information is supplied by Alia information department at the Queen Alia International Airport. Tel. (06) 323250, where it should always be verified.	Regular-line ships docking at Aqaba port: * Elisabeth Roth * Argonaut * Nade 5 * Golden Osaka * Ocean Onward * Pleview * Welfare III * Meiko Maru * Anadolu Ege	Local selling rates in Jds. Belgian franc 61.3/ 61.8 Dutch guilder 108.9/ 109.8 Egyptian pound 306.3/ 310 French franc 40.4/ 40.7 Iraqi dinar 400/ 408.3 Italian lire (for 100) 19.5/ 19.8 Japanese yen (for 100) 159.7/ 161 Kuwaiti dinar 1369.3/ 1377.3 Lebanese lira 23.5/ 24.7 Omani rial 1196.6/ 1205 Qatari riyal 114/ 115 Saudi riyal 115.7/ 116.5 Swedish crown 43.9/ 43.7 Swiss franc 144.4/ 145.6 Syrian lira 35.1/ 36.2 U.A.E. dirham 113.3/ 114.5 U.K. sterling pound 451.2/ 454.4 U.S. dollar 417/ 419.5 W. German mark 123.1/ 124.1	It will be warm, and will be hazy in the southern and eastern parts. Scattered clouds will appear with scattered rain especially in the east. Winds will be mainly moderate. In Aqaba, it will be hazy and partly cloudy, with northerly moderate winds and calm seas. Lowest temperature in deg. C: Amman 12/24 Aqaba 14/29 Dahman 12/24 Jordan Valley 13/29 Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 23.5, Aqaba 29.4, Humidity readings: Amman 37 per cent, Aqaba 23 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NOS.

EMERGENCIES	HOSPITALS	GENERAL
Ambulance 193, 775111 Fire, fire, police 199 Blood bank 775121 Civil Defence services 661111 Fire headquarters 22100-3 Police rescue 192, 2111, 37777 Police headquarters 39141 Traffic police 56390-1 Electric Power Co. 36381-2 Municipal water service 771200-3 Queen Alia Int. Airport (06) 33333	Hussein Medical Centre - 813813-32 Khadija Maternity, J. Amn - 44281-4 Akileh Maternity, J. Amman - 42441 Jabbal Amman Maternity 172358 Malhas, J. Amman 36140 Palestine, Shamsiyya 664171-4 Shamsiyya Hospital 669131 University Hospital 667158 Dar Al-Shifa, J. Hussein 667227-9 Al-Minshar Hospital 665292 Al-Ahli, Abdali 664164 Al-Muhammadiyah 77101-3 Italian, Al-Muhammadiyah 775111 Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafieh 91611 Army, Marfa 91611	IRBID Dr. Nidal Haddad 274540 Sheikh Salem pharmacy 245173 ZARQA: Dr. Naim Taha Odeh 982049 Dental pharmacy (-) GENERAL Jordan Television 773111 Radio Jordan 774111 Ministry of Tourism 42311 Police complaints 664162 Price complaints 661176 Telephone:

JEA awards transformer contract to British firm

AMMAN (Petra) — A British firm has won a contract from the Jordan Electricity Authority (JEA) to set up switch boards for a transformer station in Mafrag district and to expand another station in Zarqa.

Under the agreement, the British firm will supply equipment, install and commission the station in Mafrag and also expand the Zarqa station at a cost of JD 690,000. A JEA spokesman said that the stations are included in the authority's programme designed to develop the national grid in northern Jordan by strengthening power fed into the Irbid District Electricity Company

IDECO network from the national grid. The Mafrag station, to be set up at Rahab, will be completed in the first quarter of 1986 at a total cost of JD 1.25 million, the spokesman said. The network cables will carry 132 kilovolt power, he added.

The JEA has recently awarded two contracts to a local company and a Finnish company to build the Rahab station's civil works and to supply two transformers respectively. The agreement was signed by Mohammad Sa'ad Arafat on behalf of the JEA and by British company's vice president for projects.



His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Sunday inaugurates a conference on population policies in the Arab World organised by the Ministry of Labour and Social Development (Petra photo)

Gulf war hits new peak

(Continued from page 1)

Iraq said its warplanes raided two "very large naval targets" in the Gulf near Iran's Kharg Island oil terminal.

Gulf-based maritime shipping sources confirmed the 230,673-ton Tanker Akarita, also registered in Liberia, was struck 37 kilometres south of Kharg, outside the Iranian port of Bushehr.

The sources said another vessel, the Iranian supply ship Youssef, was raided at about the same time north of Kharg Island. One of the supply boat's 12 Iranian crewmen was injured, the sources said.

There were also unconfirmed reports that a fourth vessel — another tanker — had been hit further south in what looked like another Iranian attack, sources quoted by Reuters said.

An Iraqi military spokesman meanwhile warned international airlines that Iranian airspace would be a "prohibited war zone" with effect from 1700 GMT on Tuesday.

Iraq intended to continue air attacks on Iranian cities and would not be responsible for the safety of commercial aircraft, the spokesman said.

"Being concerned for the safety of passengers entering and leaving Tehran, we warn all international airlines that all Iranian airspace is considered a prohibited zone and any aerial target will face direct danger because of the difficulty in distinguishing targets," he said.

As foreigners flocked to take flights out of Tehran, Iraq kept up air attacks on Iranian cities, hitting the southwestern city of Dezful, and the nearby village of Adimeh with nine missiles which killed 19 people and wounded nearly 200, Tehran Radio reported.

An Iraqi jet also bombed the central Iranian city of Kashan but casualties were reported to be light.

A resident of Basra told Reuters by telephone he had Sunday visited the town of Urmah, 69 kilometres north of the port and a strategic target on the Baghdad-Basra highway for the Iraqis. He quoted town Governor Mehdi Saleh Shihab as saying: "Some Iraqis managed to infil-

trate into the town, but they were completely wiped out by the army and members of the para-military Popular Army."

The governor was quoted as saying the Iraqis then started shelling the town and its suburbs with heavy artillery, killing and wounding a large number of people.

The visitor quoted people in Urmah as saying the Iraqis had been repulsed about 10 kilometres to the east.

As the war reached new heights of clashes, Iraq urged the United Nations Saturday to arrange a ceasefire and a monitored withdrawal of both sides to internationally recognised borders.

A letter from Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz to the Security Council, which was broadcast Saturday night by Baghdad Radio, said Iraq believed it was time the U.N. took measures "to reach a comprehensive solution to the conflict."

We also believe that this should take place within the following framework:

"To cease fire and immediately end all military operations; to withdraw forces to internationally recognised borders; and to despatch a U.N. observers team to monitor the ceasefire, withdrawal and the two sides' adherence to this," the letter said.

Baghdad Radio said Mr. Aziz urged U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar or the Security Council to hold direct contacts with the two sides.

These contacts should result in arrangements for the ceasefire, and forces' pullout and selection of international observers.

In addition, the U.N. official or Security Council should obtain "effective arrangements to guarantee a moratorium on shelling of purely residential areas."

Mr. Aziz said the negotiations under the auspices of the U.N. official or Security Council should be "to reach a just and comprehensive solution on the basis of the U.N. Charter and international law."

The Security Council has called on the two countries to cease their attacks on civilians targets as a step towards an end to hostilities.

Falangist revolt undeterred

(Continued from page 1)

the president is going in that direction," Mr. Pakradouni declared.

Falangist Radio said efforts were under way to seek a compromise between Mr. Gemayel and the rebels, who have rejected his Syrian-backed efforts for reconciliation with Muslims.

The radio said a three-man committee representing Mr. Gemayel, the rebels and a neutral figure had hammered out a draft compromise solution Saturday night and was consulting with unspecified groups on ways to implement it.

No details of the compromise were available. The rebels have disowned Mr. Gemayel as a Christian spokesman and want the formation of a "national Christian council" to work out the community's stand on any political changes.

Israeli officials signalled Sunday that despite a long-time alliance with the Falangists, Israel will not intervene to protect the anti-Gemayel rebels against a Syrian military crackdown (See page 2).

Committee holds panel discussion on applications of technology transfer

By Olga Mikhail
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The Technology Transfer Committee of the Jordan Engineers' Association (JEA) Saturday held a panel discussion entitled "Transfer of technology" at the Professional Associations Complex.

The discussion mainly aimed at reaching a precise and clear definition of the concept of transfer of technology and the type of technology that should be transferred to Jordan.

The panel discussion highlighted the type of technology to be transferred, the long term effects of technological transfer on the scientific and technological potentials of Jordan, the effect of technology on the local environment, income distribution, the brain drain and the social and economic development of Jordan.

Participating in Saturday's panel discussion were over 50 Jordanian and Arab engineers and specialists representing various ministries, universities, public and private institutions, scientific research centres and Arab organisations. Through their discussions the participants tried to answer the different questions about the transfer of technology and attempted to specify the different sectors and fields that are in urgent need of the technology.

The agricultural sector, the industrial sector, energy and water were given priority as the sectors which are more in need of the transfer of technology.

"We at the Technology Transfer Committee are trying, through this discussion, to define a general framework of technology and to unify the concept of technology and technology transfer for the people and the responsible bodies in Jordan," Dr. Saif Zahir, a member of the JEA committee and head of the telecommunications and information sector at the Ministry of Planning, told the Jordan Times.

Different concepts

Dr. Zahir explained that people in Jordan still have different concepts of the "transfer of technology" and its terminology. "With the help of the different specialists participating in the discussion we hope to reach a unified concept and a framework through which the committee can implement and build its technological projects," he said.

Dr. Ibrahim Badran, under-secretary at the Ministry of Industry and Trade, also participated in the discussion and outlined the main problems facing Jordan in the field of technology transfer. Technology, he said, is a social and economic phenomenon and it is different from science in many

ways. "The transfer of technology used to be understood as the transfer of industrial goods from developed countries to less developed countries," Dr. Badran said. "Nowadays," he continued, "we should not only determine the type of technology to be transferred but the type of social structure that should develop for such technology. As a result of the vast technological development during the last twenty years, the developing countries have increased their dependence on the developed countries. We should build our indigenous technology, depend on our local know-how and build an independent social and technological experience," he explained.

Consumer goods

Imported technology and imported consumer goods was another problem raised during the discussion. "Most of the people in the developing countries are used to the imported consumer goods rather than local consumer goods," said Mr. Hosni Ayyesh, a journalist participating in the discussion. He said that any local industry should be built according to the imported standardisation and technology otherwise it would not be accepted by the people. "We first have to change the behaviour and attitude of people in Jordan and other developing countries and to shift their interest from imported consumer goods to local consumer goods," Mr. Ayyesh said. "We should understand economic and social progress in human terms rather than in terms of statistics and hard economic facts," he added.

Discussing the issue from the social point of view, Mrs. Bushaina Jardaneh, representing the social development sector, stressed the inter-relationship between technology and social development. Mrs. Jardaneh suggested that Jordan could make use of technology by introducing modern teaching methods at different schools and universities.

During the panel discussion, the participants also agreed to change the transfer of technology ter-

minology to "adaptation of technology," Dr. Zahir explained that the word "transfer" is so general and it is sometimes misunderstood by so many people and responsible bodies in Jordan and in many developing countries. "Adaptation of technology," he added, "means that we can adapt the imported technology to our social and economic structure rather than transferring the whole mechanism, know-how and machinery."

Recommendations

At the end of the discussion, some recommendations were suggested to be adopted at the end of the discussion next Saturday. The participants suggested setting up institutions in Jordan for the utilisation of technology and technology transfer as one does not exist in the developing countries. They also recommended that a national data bank should be established in Jordan to serve in future planning for the country and to unify the information and data in one main national centralised body. Another suggestion presented by the participants was to look for alternative energy sources such as solar and atomic energy.

The "brain drain" was also among the suggested recommendations. The participants suggested that the brain drain could be stopped through appropriate monetary compensation at national levels to be utilised in a further strengthening of science and technology.

"Our main target at the JEA in general and the technology transfer committee in particular is to hold in the near future a national conference on technology and technology transfer and to invite Arab and international experts and specialists from all over the world," Dr. Zahir said. "We hope that through the recommendations, which will be issued next week after we complete our discussion, that we will be able to build a clear concept of technology and to define the guidelines and the framework to be followed during the conference later on," Dr. Zahir concluded.

Conference reviews historical research on Bilad Al Sham

AMMAN (Petra) — Participants in the Fourth Conference on the History of Bilad Al Sham resumed their sessions Sunday and several leading historians from Jordan and Syria submitted their research papers to eight different committees.

The papers, discussed in two morning and two evening sessions, covered historical developments in the Bilad Al Sham region in the

Byzantine and Islamic eras, the Islamic conquests in the region, and Christian-Islamic conflicts in the northern Arabian peninsula, especially during the Umayyad period.

The conference, which was opened at the University of Jordan Saturday by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, is scheduled to last until Thursday.

Arab conference tackles demographic issues

Hassan stresses need to link population policies with development plans

By Rana Sabbagh
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Sunday outlined the main problems facing the Arab World which he said are rapid increases in population, the migration of people, urbanisation, which has resulted in crowded cities, a decrease in agricultural crop production, illiteracy and high infant mortality rates.

Prince Hassan, who was speaking at the opening of a three-day conference on "Population Policies and Development in the Arab World" at the Regency Palace Hotel in Amman, also said that the grave challenges facing the Arab World need the support of both the governmental and private sectors in order to tackle these problems.

The Crown Prince added that such a conference is in "perfect time" to try and study the relationship of population vis-a-vis the socio-economic and cultural development plans. He also said that a thorough study of population policies is a means to promote better living standards for people in the Arab World, especially since this conference will not only deal with drawing up population policies, but it also stresses that population policy is a major factor contributing towards the success of comprehensive development plans.

Prince Hassan referred to the Jordanian experience in the field of population policy saying that the National Committee for Population, which was established 10 years ago, has participated in finding solutions to various problems facing population programmes, the coordination of such programmes and in defining developmental priorities. However, he said, Jordan has realised the need and importance of the population and the problems of the population, especially since population problems with adequate solutions, have had a direct effect on stabilising individuals, families and the whole population in general. All Arab leaders believe in the fact that "the Arab individuals are the targets of development plans and are those who upgrade the development in any country," Prince Hassan said.

He added that a comprehensive regional population policy will allow the Arab World to organise

their development goals which should reach all citizens and provide adequate labour, health, housing, education and food services.

Development plans

The Crown Prince stressed that there is a direct relationship between development and population, as the population is the dynamic force which upgrades development plans. Therefore, adequate information about the population, statistical indicators and analysis of information on the population will help to reach an accurate solution and definitions of the reasons behind the demographic distribution and the continuous movements of populations, he said.

Prince Hassan noted that "when officials evaluated the development plans carried out in Jordan, they realised that some of these development plans and population plans had repetitive and conflicting goals. Therefore, the dimension of demographic aspects is a basic factor in setting a population policy, which forms part of the national development strategies," he added.

He also said that a regional strategy should be implemented to discuss problems related to youth, who form a major force in any development process. He added that the standard of women should also be upgraded. Prince Hassan added that when the problems of Arab youth, the standard of Arab women, childcare and planning of manpower are discussed, the only way to solve such problems is through a comprehensive regional and national framework, which should organise and list the priorities in population sectors and the organisation of work in such sectors. Therefore, Prince Hassan said that the framework of any population policy should take into consideration the socio-economic, political and cultural development

plans. Minister of Labour and Social Development Tayseer Abdul Jabbar in his speech referred to the Zionist pressures against Arab citizens in the occupied lands and said that these pressures and measures aim to force the Arab citizens to leave their land. However, the minister praised the efforts that Jordan has taken in order to make the people of the occupied land remain in their rightful land and to resist the Zionist pressures.

Common trends

Dr. Abdul Jabbar added that the scientific characteristics of the demographic structure in the Arab World are the same and a researcher would notice large families, the lack of women's participation in social and developmental plans and the continuous movement of people from rural areas to urban areas as common factors in Arab countries. Therefore, the minister said: "Policies of integration should be prepared to mould the negative and positive aspects of the demographic structure in the Arab World to organise an integrated Arab policy which will consider the same socio-economic and cultural structures."

The three-day conference aims to cover different aspects of the major characteristics of population situation in the Arab World, the problems of population projection in the Arab World, family planning in the Arab World, the population policies related to the labour force and migration in the Arab World, the population policies related to fertility and family health in the Arab World as well as the inter-relationship between demographic and development variables in the context of planning and formulation of population policies.

The countries which will submit their reports to the conference are Jordan, Egypt, Tunisia, Iraq, Yemen and Syria and a large number of governmental and private national, regional and international institutions, organisations and associations working in the field of population policies and development are also participating in this conference. The conference is organised under the supervision of the Ministry of Labour and Social Development.

Committee reiterates its support for Iraqi stand

AMMAN (Petra) — The Jordanian committee for supporting the struggle of the Iraqi people issued a statement in Amman Sunday voicing Jordan's total support for the Iraqi people, government and armed forces in their brave confrontation of the Iranian expansionist ambitions in Iraq.

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Guest Column

By Awwad Abu Zeineh

Trying to harass UNESCO back to fold?

AFTER THE United States had taken its own decision to abandon the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO), a number of nations that are either friends of the United States or allies, bound to it with treaties and other agreements, have issued statements expressing their dissatisfaction with the way the organisation is being run, threatening to withdraw from it. Of course these nations are among the very rich, and like the United States the loss of their contributions to UNESCO will be deeply felt if they decide to leave, rendering the organisation in a difficult position to meet its various financial commitments.

This would be a most unfortunate situation since UNESCO's main task is to safeguard mankind's cultural heritage anywhere on earth. The United States has no doubt decided to withdraw from UNESCO in order to withhold contributions to the organisation's humanitarian mission because that would mean continuing to preserve the cultural heritage of the Palestinians in occupied Palestine in general and Arab and Islamic Jerusalem in particular. Remaining inside UNESCO conflicts with Washington's stand in support of the Zionist occupation of Arab land and runs in contradiction with Israel's drive to demolish Arab

cultural sites and obliterate Arab and Islamic heritage there. Since taking its decision, the United States has felt the need for other countries to support it in and approve and legitimise its stand. One of these countries was Japan, which recently announced that unless UNESCO introduced reforms, it would freeze its contributions to the organisation. By reforms Japan meant that UNESCO should abstain from involving any political implications in any of its projects. In fact Japan's demand means that UNESCO will be unable to conduct its business freely and cannot offer assistance to "Third World" nations which

need it most unless projects acquired prior approval of Japan along with other influential world powers. Washington seems to have chosen Japan to be next in line among deserters because its financial contribution to the organisation ranks second after the United States, which offers almost one third of the budget. The threat from Japan came no doubt after close coordination with the United States and in concert with Washington's policies towards "Third World" nations. Our theory proved right and won further credit when Great Britain announced its intention of withdrawing from UNESCO unless it said that organisation

introduced real reforms that proved satisfactory to the British government, the administration U.S. seems to try to suggest. British Foreign Secretary Sir Geoffrey Howe told the House of Commons in London that his government was not satisfied with the way UNESCO was being run, especially where the organisation's funds are in question, since Britain contributes nearly five per cent of UNESCO's budget. Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher was more articulate when she said that UNESCO was being controlled by forces hostile to the West. She would not listen to Commonwealth leaders who

volunteered, soon afterwards, to help in introducing the desired reforms. Of course Britain follows Washington's political lines and therefore has to express its dissatisfaction with UNESCO, which had lately condemned racist regimes including the Zionist state and Israel's measures to obliterate Arab cultural heritage. We do not expect other European countries to follow the examples of Britain and Japan, at least for the present. What we do expect is a very strong reaction to them by "Third World" nations, especially those of Asia and Africa which have long suffered at the hands of colonial powers.

GCC and a call to heed

HIS MAJESTY King Hussein's timely letters to Arab leaders urging them to make more concerted efforts to deal with the Gulf war and end the conflict through peaceful means reflect Jordan's concern over the alarming aggravation in the situation on the Iraq-Iran front. The King pointed out dangers inherent in the on-going conflict and underlined the need for the Arabs to act speedily and restore security and peace in the Gulf area.

The King's letters, coming amid the renewed flare-ups in the conflict, coincide with the convening of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) foreign ministers' meeting which started in Riyadh yesterday. GCC member states border the war zone and are probably the most directly affected by the conflict.

In their last meeting held in Kuwait, the GCC member states endorsed a strategic treaty for joint defence and for confronting any eventuality or unexpected developments in the current Gulf conflict. The Gulf states had realised the danger of that conflict after four and a half years of hostilities, and after they became certain that Iran's rulers were bent on pursuing the war for a long time. They realised that they would not expect any help from the Arab League if the war comes to their doorstep since that League had failed so far to send a single Arab soldier to help Iraq repel Iran's aggression, and had even failed to hold a summit conference to discuss the situation.

In charting their joint defence pact the Gulf states had excluded Iraq, their natural ally and strategic depth. Iraq is the most important link in the equation because of its vast military power, combat experience and human resources. Building a Gulf state's military power without Iraq cannot achieve any real strategic objective nor can it provide proper defence for the Arab states in the Gulf region. The war in the Gulf has now taken a serious turn and Arab Gulf states will commit a grave mistake if they believe that it is an exclusively Iraqi-Iranian war. These states, which have in the past failed to persuade Iran to end the war, should in their new meeting in Riyadh consider carefully King Hussein's message and should bear in mind that Iran's threat to their countries looms larger than at anytime before. These Gulf states which failed in their peaceful bids with Iran should inevitably be able to succeed in working out a joint defence strategy with Iraq, their natural ally, a sister Gulf state and one that had offered heavy sacrifice in defence of the whole Arab Nation.

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i: Why send Murphy?

NOW THAT the American administration has rejected President Hosni Mubarak's proposals for opening a dialogue with a Jordanian-Palestinian delegation, it is difficult to see how U.S. envoy Richard Murphy, who will be coming to the Middle East soon, can make a progress towards peace.

What Mubarak had proposed constituted the minimum that the Arabs can accept in their approach to peace and, therefore, any proposals by Murphy less than this minimum level would not be realistic and would not be welcome, particularly if they are coupled with Israeli terms on future negotiations. Thus, Murphy's forthcoming visit to the region looks to be a mere attempt to minimise the effects of the negative reaction which Mubarak's proposals had been met with in Washington. Washington's rejection of these proposals had been felt with dismay in the Arab World and a number of European capitals, and any attempt to minimise the impact of this American attitude cannot succeed unless Washington re-examines its own position and re-considers its open collusion with Israel, something unlikely to happen at least in the foreseeable future.

This means that it will be difficult for the Arabs to regard Murphy's visit as serious. The situation cannot be improved by repetition of visits and contacts that mostly lack seriousness and constructive posture, neither can it be remedied by offering negative Israeli terms. Therefore, Murphy is bound to fail in his attempt to shift the ball from the American-Israeli court into the Arab court.

Al Distour: New effort should be made

KING HUSSEIN'S messages to the Arab leaders urging concerted efforts to end the Gulf war stems from Jordan's deep awareness of the great dangers that threaten the region as a consequence of this war, and a genuine desire for stopping bloodshed.

The call came as the war intensifies and civilians are being killed and Arab and Islamic resources are wasted in vain and for no purpose. The situation clearly does not tolerate further delay and all Arab and Muslim nations should act now if they are concerned over the lives of innocent people and the future of the Gulf region.

All Arab countries should make a concerted initiative to end the war and stem Iran's aggression on Iraq. As Iraq had repeatedly called for a peaceful end to the conflict, the Iranian regime persisted in its futile attempts to pursue the fighting that has been causing so much suffering to both parties. As this was going on, certain Arab countries have been content to sit back and look on, and some were in fact inciting the Iranian regime for more hostile activities against the Gulf region in general and Iraq in particular.

The current escalation of fighting in the Gulf war leaves no room for procrastination in taking meaningful action towards ending this mad conflict.

Sawt Al Shaab: Arabs should act responsibly

KING HUSSEIN'S message to Arab leaders about the Gulf war was another attempt by Jordan to urge Arab countries to take proper action in stemming Iran's aggression on the Arab Nation in general and on Iraq in particular. Iraq has been involved in a war imposed on its people by an enemy whose actions are characterised with stubbornness and lust for destruction. The Arab countries have not been showing strong support for their sister state in its struggle to fend off Iran's danger and some have in fact been supporting the enemy against their kinsmen.

We wonder to what extent Iran will maintain its stubbornness, and at the same time cannot help feeling astonished at the attitude of Arab countries which have been lacking the will to back the Iraqi people in word and deed. Iraq is sacrificing its resources and troops in defence of the Arab Nation while its sister Arab states have been indifferent as to the outcome of such conflict and also the constant weakness characterising their nation.

King Hussein's message to the Arab leaders was a reminder to them of their duty towards Iraq, and an attempt to end inter-Arab divisions and differences over this issue and other numerous issues that are the root-cause of Arab weakness.

Unless the Arabs act constructively now, their nation will pay dearly for failure and shirking of responsibility.

Moderate Arabs lobby Reagan, appear to get little

By Nicholas Moore

CAIRO — Arab allies of the United States who are urging President Reagan to launch a new initiative on the Middle East do not seem to be achieving very much.

But they may have been encouraged to continue seeking the solution to the 37-year-old Palestinian problem that they now envisage, in which, with the U.S. acting as broker, Israel would trade peace for the Jordan West Bank and other Arab land which it has occupied since the 1967 Middle East war.

Saudi Arabia's King Fahd went to Washington last month and has now been followed there by President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt, with 48 millions the largest Arab state and the only one to have concluded a peace treaty with Israel.

Mr. Mubarak, who has cast Egypt as an intermediary, said on his return from Washington that, although the U.S. had yet to take the sort of initiative the Arabs want, he had not been disappointed by his talks with Mr. Reagan.

"We cannot say the American reaction was positive or negative," he told reporters, adding that he had not expected decisions "in one or two days."

Among Mr. Mubarak's ideas was a proposal that the U.S. hold early talks with a joint Jordan-

Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) delegation to explore the new "moderate" Arab peace proposals advanced on Feb. 11 by Jordan and the PLO — "a last chance for peace". King Hussein called them.

But the U.S. kept a pledge to Israel not to talk to the PLO until it explicitly recognised Israel. Egyptian sources say that, ahead of talks, that would be one concession too many for PLO leader Yasser Arafat, who is already beleaguered by Syrian-led Arab hardliners.

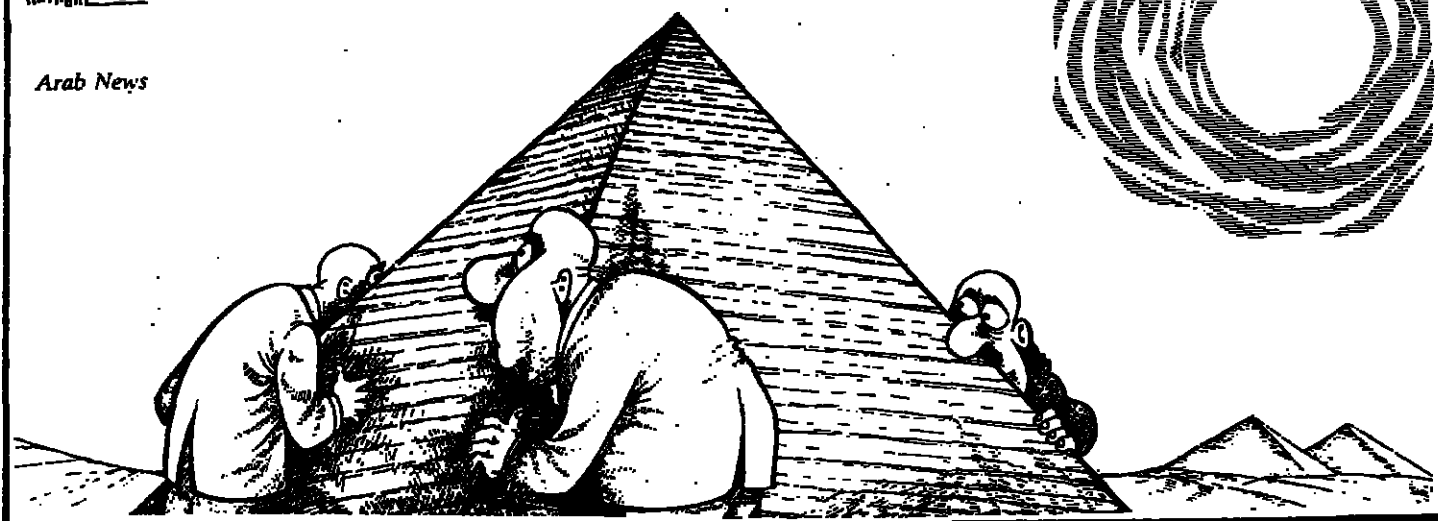
Still, although Mr. Mubarak seemed at least partially rebuffed, Secretary of State George Shultz did say the U.S. would send Assistant Secretary of State Richard Murphy on a tour of Israel, Egypt, Jordan and Saudi Arabia.

Mr. Mubarak had helped restore movement and "it's important to try to keep this momentum going," Mr. Shultz said. That may be as much as the Egyptians realistically hoped to get at present.

Shortly before Mr. Mubarak left for Washington, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Boutros Boutros Ghali said it was necessary to be "pragmatic and flexible" on a timetable for negotiation and that Egypt's initial goal was simply to focus world attention back on the West Bank and the Palestinians.

Mr. Mubarak stopped briefly in

Arabic News



Paris on his way to the U.S. and in Britain, West Germany and Italy coming home. Arab and Western diplomats in Cairo say Egypt thinks the West Europeans might help put the Arab case to Mr. Reagan and that he may listen particularly to British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher.

The state-owned Egyptian press greeted the apparent lack of a positive U.S. response to Mr. Mubarak with editorials charging that the administration was ruled by the Jewish lobby. "The comfortable U.S., seated

on the throne of the wealthiest empire in modern history, day-dreaming of its power, is under pressure from Jews and Zionists," said Al-Gomhouria.

The newspaper said Egypt saw one school of U.S. decision makers as favouring a wait-and-see Middle East policy in the expectation that that might bring new Arab concessions.

Mr. Arafat and King Hussein have already modified a demand that there must be a PLO state in the West Bank if an Israeli withdrawal can be negotiated.

Instead, they talked in February of a Jordan-Palestinian Confederation, an idea closer to U.S. proposals for "Palestinian autonomy in association with Jordan", which is the most Washington has ever said it might be able to get Israel to negotiate on.

Diplomats said that, if Mr. Shultz was serious about keeping momentum going, the thrust of diplomacy in the coming months would presumably be to try to find a formula to deal with PLO insistence on joining any negotiations led by King Hussein.

Then, there was the hostility of the right-wing Likud bloc in Israel's coalition to handing back any of the West Bank. The diplomats in Cairo said it was unrealistic to expect Washington to arm-twist Labour Party Prime Minister Shimon Peres into talks on doing that, even if it wants to, until convinced he could call an election on a "peace platform" with good prospects that he would win it.

Guatemalan women fight for return of husbands and sons

By Bernd Debusmann

GUATEMALA CITY — Nineth Montenegro de Garcia is petite, brunette and angry. "As long as my people keep disappearing in Guatemala, you cannot speak of human rights improvements. People disappear day after day after day."

Nineth, 27, speaks from experience. Her husband Fernando, a labour leader, disappeared on Feb. 18 last year on his way to work in a glass factory. "He was abducted by armed men in civilian clothes and there has been no official word on him since."

Under a long string of right-wing military rulers, "disappearances" have been routine and contributed to Guatemala's reputation as one of the worst human rights violators in the world.

Unlike many other women here, Nineth refused to quietly accept the disappearance of her husband. Last June, she and three other women founded a group devoted to pressing the authorities into returning missing relatives.

"Since Apoyo Mutuo (mutual support) was founded, 416 women have joined us. Each of them is missing a husband, son, father or other relative," Nineth said.

"But our group is only the tip of the iceberg. Last year, 3,000 Guatemalans disappeared. Many of their relatives simply are too frightened to do something about it."

The figure of 3,000 has not been independently confirmed. Hardly a day goes by, however, without a newspaper reporting a disappearance.

Apoyo Mutuo has compiled a list of more than 400 people, all relatives of group members, who it says have vanished in the past two years. Leafing through a fat, yellow-bound folder with names, dates and photographs of the missing, Nineth said: "We know for certain that six are alive. There is nothing certain about the others."

One of the cases documented by Apoyo Mutuo involves a family of 24, whose members vanished over the past three years. "The only ones left are Eva Morales Contreras, aged 16, and her 80-year-old grandmother," Nineth said.

Many of those listed by the group are labour and student leaders, teachers and professionals

whose views conflicted with those of the government of General Oscar Humberto Mejia Victores, who seized power in a military coup on Aug. 8, 1983.

"We know our loved ones were taken by security forces or people linked with them," Nineth said. "In many cases, there are witnesses. We have supplied the government with details down to the license numbers of cars used by the kidnappers."

Government officials have accused Apoyo Mutuo of having links with the guerrilla groups who have been fighting a succession of military governments for two decades.

"General Mejia Victores saw us in November and December, and

he suggested that some of those on our lists were with the guerrillas, others simply had left for countries abroad. But he promised to look into our complaints."

In response to the group's increasingly vocal activities, he set up a commission comprising the deputy defence and interior ministers and the attorney general to look into disappearances.

"Not one person has been returned to us since the commission was formed," Nineth said. "But two of the people on our list did reappear — dead, with signs of cruel torture."

While Apoyo Mutuo and several international human rights groups paint a grim picture of continued human rights abuses in

Guatemala, the United States government has noted improvements.

"Overall human rights conditions improved in 1984," the State Department's latest human rights report said, noting that the numbers of political killings had dropped. They are now estimated to run between 50, and 100 a month. However it added: "The number of disappearances increased in 1984."

The Reagan administration considers Guatemala, Central America's most populous and resource-rich country, a key bastion in what Washington sees as a crusade against Communism.

Administration attempts to provide much greater assistance

have repeatedly failed due to congressional opposition over Guatemala's human rights record. But congressional sources in Washington now say chances of supplying military aid are better because of perceived human rights advances here.

The State Department's human rights report cited as one sign of improvement the fact that Gen. Mejia Victores allowed Apoyo Mutuo to function "openly and without interference."

Since January, up to 100 members of the group have assembled in front of the Ministry for Public Affairs every Friday, carrying placards with the photographs of missing relatives.

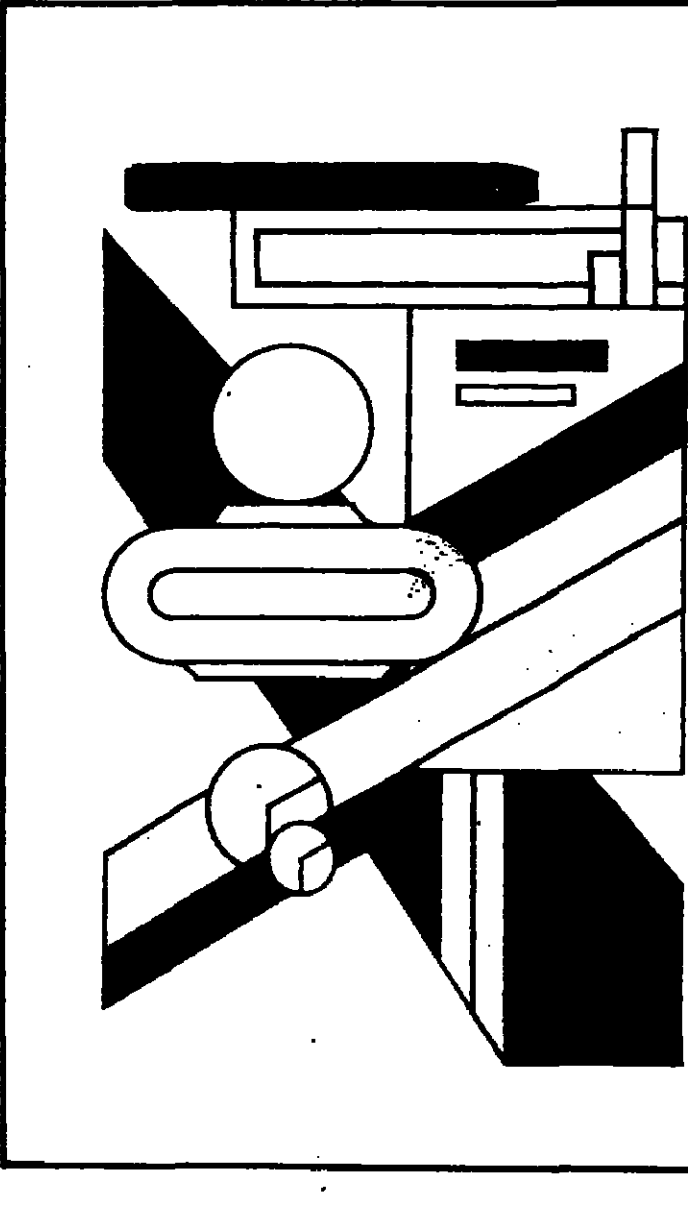
On March 1, Apoyo Mutuo

demonstrators briefly occupied the ministry to back demands for action, a move unthinkable under the two military governments which preceded this administration.

The military rulers have taken no action to stop Apoyo Mutuo but its demonstrations have spurred anonymous death threats.

Apoyo Mutuo says the authorities are trying to taint human rights activists with a Communist brush to discredit them.

"But tell me, what is Communist about wanting your husband back? We have a daughter of two years. What is Communist about fighting for her father's return? Nineth asked.



TO ARRIVING PASSENGERS TO JORDAN

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Jail in 150

Director of the Jordan Steel Industries Company says:



Mr. Muhsein Suleiman Al Dajani

**"Economic progress requires the presence of heavy industry
We have to adapt our industries to conform
to world economic developments.
He who builds for peace cannot help thinking about war."**

Steel and iron industry constitutes the foundation stone in building the economy of a country wishing to cope with development and progress. Paving the ground for the establishment of steel and iron industry is an integral part of a country's policy aimed at developing itself, because iron is the most important basic material needed for industrial development.

Iron and steel products are fast spreading, and their prices are continually and speedily rising. From time to time, we hear of the establishment of new iron factories around the world and these industries have over the past few years achieved major strides in technology and science, and therefore will have a significant impact on the future.

It is not easy to initiate such heavy industries without first acquiring government support to make available all trained human and material elements as well as expertise and funds. These are required for not only establishing an industry but also to carry out supervising operations and conduct maintenance of machinery so as to ensure continued and efficient production.

In line with these principles, the Jordan Steel Industries Company (JSICO) announced in 1983

the establishment of the iron sheet metal company with a capital of JD 10 million. The project was welcomed at the official and public levels in Jordan and has made big strides of progress at the initial foundation stages; and this progress was regarded as an important sign, ushering Jordan into the age of heavy industries. Towards the end of 1983, then-Minister of Industry and Trade Walid Asfour cancelled the project as it was starting to see the light. By then, the shareholders had paid up the first installment of the required capital for the project. But the company was requested by the minister to pay the money back to the shareholders and to bear all the costs of establishment — a total of JD 67,000. The company made the refunding, despite the fact that article 55 of the Companies' Law states that the constituent shareholders should bear the expenses involved in the establishment of the company should the project fail to be carried out.

In an interview with Jordan Steel Industries' director Muhsein Suleiman Al Dajani, we tried to get some background about the project and the obstacles which it had to overcome and also Jordan's need for heavy industries and their importance for the national economy.



— Mr. Dajani speaks to our reporter.

Mr. Dajani said that iron and steel industries in general began in the developing nations at about the middle of this century, and in the past few decades they witnessed many changes in the installations, machinery and equipment used in the factories to make the industries cope with modern production techniques. New equipment have been installed, and new and modern technologies adopted to make the factories more productive, efficient and successful, Mr. Dajani said.

trade agreements with other Arab countries which foreign steel producers can not.

Fourth, the iron industry does not entail health hazards like the petrochemical industries which recently caused a disaster in India or like pharmaceutical industries which produced birth control pills that deformed babies in Europe," Mr. Dajani argued.

Asked about the advantages derived from the project to Jordan, Mr. Dajani responded:

The project of constructing a steel rolling mill will provide Jordan with the following pivotal advantages:

First, imports of steel have been costing the country large sums of foreign exchange each year. Consequently, when the mill reaches full capacity, its output will exceed domestic needs allowing a policy of export to be pursued, with consequent further benefits to the balance of payments.

Second, since steel is the basis of many other industries, the construction of a rolling mill would increase the country's trading position in the Arab market.

A great deal of steel is required by Arab business already, and during the foreseeable future, increasing volume is likely to be needed as Arab economies and populations expand. Furthermore, steel is among those industries whose continuing vitality is important to the producing nation's national security because of its importance in defence industries.

Third, there are nearly 150 hot-strip mills in the world today. Of those more than 120 were built before 1970. Mills built 15 years ago or earlier have become obsolescent; to modernise would require massive investment. Furthermore, it has been the tendency of many steel executives to spend money to make acquisitions outside the industry rather than to modernise mills. Newly-built mills have the advantage that they can meet a greater accuracy and lower cost than the older mills.

Asked on his opinion about losses sustained by newly constructed factories, Mr. Dajani said:

"The main reason for this is that the cost of machinery and equipment is normally less when the feasibility study of the project is made than when the goods are bought. If a company does not take this point into consideration it will eventually suffer losses causing the project's failure."

Asked of his views on the future of the iron industry in Jordan, Mr. Dajani said:

"There is no doubt that the development of the iron industry in Jordan would have positive effects on its economy, particularly through the growth of the market for capital goods or services."

If Jordan is to become an economic leader in the region, then it needs to develop large, dynamic industries.

Financial prosperity in Jordan means political stability. Those who have the will and vision to improve the Jordanian economy ought to exercise it on the development of new undertakings. There ought to be no doubt that an independent, strong Jordanian economy is here to stay.

The challenge is not small; the obstacles are not simple; a great deal of hard work, statesmanship, and intelligence must be devoted to such endeavours. But one thing is certain: The reward will be worth the effort as such orientation might as well be the engine pulling Jordan's industrial development into the 21st century.

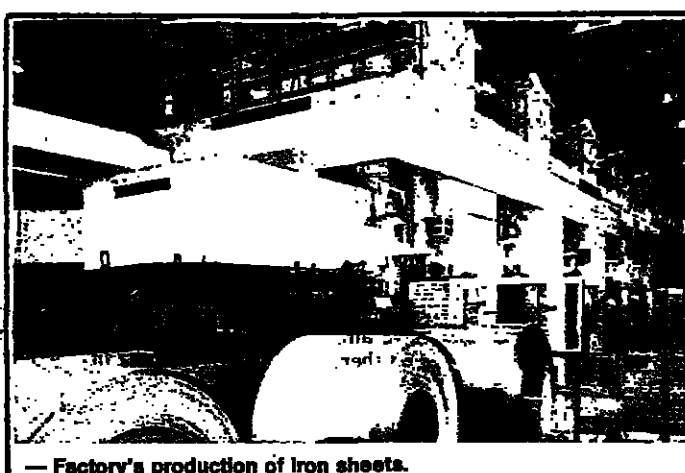
Mr. Dajani added: "Developing nations suffer from obstacles that continuously impede their industries like rising prices of materials and difficulty in obtaining expertise and funds. Despite that, these nations aim at achieving self-sufficiency in iron production and continue to exert efforts to bridge the gap between production and consumption although some of the markets which absorb the production are relatively small."

Limited local market have tended to increase the cost of production and this tends to weaken a country's competitive ability in the face of industrial nations. Jordan is one of the Arab countries now developing their national industries. These countries, which have started off with light industries, need now to move on to heavy industries essential for reducing dependence on foreign products."

In the interview, Mr. Dajani asked about steps taken for the establishment of a rolling steel mill company. He said that the International Industrial Investments Company has prepared a feasibility study for the project, "which we submitted to the Ministry of Industry and Trade and requested a licence for. "We were issued the licence on March 30, 1983, and we undertook proceedings for the establishment of the company with a JD 10 million capital," he said. The company made contacts with international firms for the purchase of machinery, and these firms expressed readiness to help us acquire from their governments' long-term loans that should cover 85 per cent of the total cost of machinery needed for the project, Mr. Dajani pointed out. "These loans were to be paid back after we start production and some of the firms even offered to acquire a 15 per cent share of the company's capital."

A major American steel company offered to carry out managerial services of the project, to train workers and also to supervise the construction of the factory and the marketing of its products, he said.

"We made contacts with these companies to reach agreement. Had the licence not been cancelled as a result of the minister's decision, we would have brought in the machines and other equipment needed for the work and for developing this important industry in Jordan. We would have brought in foreign capital, expertise and technical know-how from other countries for



— Factory's production of iron sheets.



— The iron factory which was to be built.

Heavy industry will contribute to:

- Stemming imports of foreign products;
- Reviving national economy and savings;
- Creating jobs for more people;
- Bringing Jordan closer to industrial nations level;

developing the national economy through the iron and steel industry. Had the project been implemented, we would have offered jobs to local workforce, helped the country save hard currency and contributed to stemming the emigration of the country's labour force."

Asked on whether Jordan would be able to absorb the products of the new project, Mr. Dajani said: "Jordan's consumption is limited, but this is no reason for not having such a vital project in the country because:

First, Jordan has a central geographic position in the Arab World and therefore enjoys a unique chance for competing in iron and steel products. Neighbouring other Arab states, Jordan can easily and speedily ship products, and our factory will be able to ensure quick delivery of metal sheets to any part of Jordan and to other Arab countries. Both local and Arab importers will soon find that

- Increasing Jordan's commercial importance;
- Satisfying our local industrial requirements.

Jordan is in need of heavy industry and iron in various forms is used in most industries, Mr. Dajani concluded.

they have a better product with a cheaper cost. Arab countries import sheet metal from Japan, France, West Germany and Britain and these are all distant countries and their products cost a lot of money in freight and insurance. These foreign companies will soon find it difficult to compete with Jordan's metal sheet products allowing us to penetrate the local as well as the neighbouring markets.

Second, Jordan's steel industry would not be expected to face those economic problems besetting major industries in the industrial nations such as strikes, strong imports, competition, or wage conflicts.

Third, the Jordanian government has the power and authority to impose restrictions on foreign imports to protect domestic production. In addition to imposing import restrictions at home, Jordan is in a position to work out favourable

ANNOUNCEMENT MAAN WATER AND SEWERAGE PROJECT CONTRACT 39/85/MN2

Water Authority of Jordan announces to those contractors who had purchased the tender document, No. 39/85/MN2 of Maan Water and Sewerage Project the followings:

- 1- A site visit will take place on Tuesday 19/3/1985, so concerned contractors are asked to assemble at the Water Authority's Branch in Maan between 10-11 a.m.
- 2- The bid bond is JD 25,000 instead of JD 50,000 as stated in page B6-I Volume I.
- 3- Addendum No. 2 will be available on Saturday 23/3/85 containing all answers submitted in the prebid conference and the site visit.

Eng. M.S. Kilani,
President
Water Authority

WATER AUTHORITY

Baq'a treatment plant contract No. GA1/37/85
Wadi Essir treatment plant contract No. GA2/38/85

The Water Authority announces for contractors and firms who have bought copies of tender documents of the above contracts that:

- 1- The bids will be due on 16/4/1985 at 12:00 noon instead of 2/4/1985 for both contracts.
- 2- Addendum No. 4 is now available for both contracts at the Water Authority office.

President
Eng. M.S. Kilani
Water Authority

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Contact: 22568 from 9-12 & 3-5 p.m.

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ENGLISH TYPIST WANTED

The International Baccalaureate School invites applications for the post of English typist. Ability to type in Arabic also would be a considerable advantage.

Application forms are available from the school (Tel: 845572). The closing date for applications is Sunday March 24.

Navratilova, Lloyd clash in Dallas final

DALLAS (R) — Martina Navratilova and Chris Evert Lloyd Saturday won semifinal matches in a \$150,000 women's tennis tournament in Dallas to set up the 64th meeting of their careers.

Top-seeded Navratilova beat third seed Helena Sukova of Czechoslovakia 6-2, 7-5 while second-seeded Lloyd defeated unseeded Catarina Lindqvist of Sweden 6-1, 6-3.

Navratilova reeled off her first set against Sukova, a serve-and-volley specialist, in just 20 minutes. She gave up only five points on her service games.

But in the second set, Sukova raced out to a 3-1 lead and was a point away from going up 4-1.

Navratilova then lobbed twice and Sukova put her smash into the net. Moments later, at device in the same game, Sukova netted another smash, enabling Navratilova to break serve and get back into the set.

Both players agreed that the missed smashes turned the tide back in Navratilova's favour, although she had to break serve twice more to secure the set and match.

Navratilova said: "I picked the

right spoils to lob her, and those were big points. After that, I felt in control again. I played solid tennis, and I'm pretty happy with my game."

Lloyd, playing Lindqvist for the first time, found her to be mainly a hard-hitting baseliner. Lindqvist's serve was shaky, and she gave up numerous unforced forehand errors.

However, Lloyd, who showed her superiority in most of the backcourt rallies, praised Lindqvist's play.

Lloyd said: "I was really impressed with her game. She hits the hardest groundstrokes of anyone I've played. She's real aggressive and doesn't seem to have a weakness on either side, forehand or backhand."

"I got into a slugging match against her, which was a good warmup to get my groundstrokes grooved. I concentrated real well and played a really good match—my best tennis this week."



KUWAIT WINS: The national Kuwaiti soccer team Sunday defeated visiting Danish club Hvidovre 1-0 in a match played at Amman's Al Hussein Youth City stadium.

1982 World Cup finalists, Kuwait, who are training in Amman in preparation for the 1986 World Soccer Cup qualifying matches, improved on their previous record against other foreign teams that came to Jordan in the last two weeks to play Kuwait. Abdul Aziz Al Anbari scored the only goal in the

73rd minute against Hvidovre who are fourth in the Danish football league.

Kuwait who are in Asian Group Two, Sub Group B in the World Cup qualification matches start their bid for a place in the finals with a match against Syria on Friday in Damascus.

Kuwait were beaten by English club Tottenham Hotspur 1-0, and Scotland's Glasgow Rangers 2-1 in friendly matches during their training period in Amman.

Khan in a class of his own

PARIS (R) — Jahangir Khan, Pakistan's world squash champion, demonstrated his unique class as he trounced New Zealand's Stuart Davenport to win the French Open for the fourth time in a row Saturday night.

Jahangir was never remotely in danger of surrendering his remarkable record of invincibility stretching back to 1981 as he dispatched Davenport 9-0, 9-1, 9-1 in just 27 minutes on court.

"I was never really in it," said the tall New Zealander. "You have to be on top form against him. He made virtually two mistakes throughout the match, and that was the number of points I scored."

"I don't think I had one clear winner—well, maybe one or two, but they're easily forgotten."

Davenport, one of the few players ever to have taken a single game off Jahangir, was admittedly not at his best at the end of a week in which he suffered from a breathing problem and a touch of influenza.

He spent most of Saturday in bed, and could have been forgiven if he had decided it wiser to stay there rather than face the whirlwind of Jahangir in the final.

Jahangir, given a tougher ride

by Australia's Chris Dittmar in the semifinal, broke Davenport's opening service and raced into an 8-0 lead before he made his first and only error of the initial game.

The New Zealander delayed the rout in the second game as service changed hands four times, but then Jahangir sprang into a 5-0 lead before Davenport gained his first point of the match.

Davenport also took a consolation point in the third game but could not stem the tide of winners which swept down the side walls, rattled into the corners or dropped at the top end beyond his lunging reach.

"I was pleased with my game. I was playing all my defensive shots. It was all right. I was getting the points easily and was always in the lead," Jahangir said.

"He couldn't do anything. He was making mistakes, playing short. At the back of the court he was trying to play shots, but they were going on the tin. After we had a few rallies he was tired."

Jahangir said he had wanted to start slowly because the previous day, when Dittmar took the first game in their semifinal clash, he had felt pain in his shin. "I was relaxed," he added.

New Zealand did have one vic-

tory to celebrate Saturday night when world number one Susan Devoy took the women's title by beating Britain's Lisa Ople 9-5, 9-5, 9-2 in the final.

Ople, returning to form after a grim year troubled by hepatitis, led the first game 4-1 before Devoy overhauled her with her relentless hard-hitting approach.

"The first two sets were tight. I thought they were really hard," Devoy said. "In patches she played really well. I was a bit worried there. She started strong but faded."

Devoy said her rivals on the circuit were less consistent than herself. "The main thing is I'm much faster and much stronger."

She said she admired the brilliance and spontaneity of players like Ople. "I wish I had half their shots... I haven't got the happy knack of just going for it. I'm a bit tentative, more of a safety player," she said.

Ople, world number two behind Devoy, said: "She played too well for me. The first game, when I was leading, I should have taken advantage of that. She was very tired after that game. But everything was on for her and she said she had never played better."

Trainer convinced Holmes will not fight again

LAS VEGAS (R) — Larry Holmes bowed out of boxing with style and dignity on Friday night.

The 35-year-old American heavyweight ended his 12-year professional career and seven-year reign as world champion with an impressive win over his little-known compatriot David Bey.

But while the manner of Holmes' triumph—he stopped Bey in the 10th round of their scheduled 15-round bout—suggested he could fight on for another year or two, his veteran trainer Larry Futch remains adamant boxing has seen the last of Holmes.

"I believe he has made up his mind not to fight again and I think he'll stick to it," said 73-year-old Futch, one of the most respected trainers in boxing history. "And I certainly hope Larry stays retired," he added.

Holmes was not around to attend the traditional morning-after

news conference Saturday, having left earlier with his wife and children for his Pennsylvania home.

But Futch agreed with most boxing experts that Holmes had turned back the clock and produced a virtuoso performance to stop his 28-year-old opponent and retain his International Boxing Federation (IBF) title in a fight billed "The Grand Finale."

The win left Holmes unbeaten in 47 professional fights—a record which includes 16 successful defences of the World Boxing Council (WBC) title.

But Futch believes Holmes could tarnish his brilliant record by fighting on. "His attention has been divided between boxing and his businesses, and that puts him on dangerous ground," he said. "He could continue, but the younger fighters will be getting better in the next two years and Larry

will not.

"He would be taking a chance, and he would start taking blows that he's never taken before."

"This is it—I won't fight again," Holmes said after stopping Bey, only to say later that he might decide to continue if he received substantial offers to fight American Gerry Cooney again or world light-heavyweight champion Michael Spinks. But Futch said he doubted whether either fight would materialise.

Futch, who in his younger days sparred with the great Joe Louis and has trained Joe Frazier and Spinks to world titles, said history would show Holmes to be one of boxing's greatest ever champions.

"I would rate Louis as the greatest of those I have seen," said Futch. "After that, I would say it is a toss-up between Holmes and (Muhammad) Ali."

Verona takes step closer to Italian soccer honours

ROME (R) — Verona edged a step closer to their first Italian Soccer League Championship with a 3-1 victory over Fiorentina Sunday as Internazionale dropped a point in a thrilling 2-2 draw with city rivals A.C. Milan.

Two second half goals from Verona striker Giuseppe Galderisi and another from defender Silvano Fontolan secured Verona two vital championship points after Paolo Monelli had given Fiorentina a 1-0 halftime lead.

West German international Hans-Peter Briegel created the chance for Fontolan to hit the 59th minute equaliser. Galderisi shot the league leaders in front four minutes later from the penalty spot after Leonardo Occhipinti floored Briegel.

He found the net again in the 85th minute, five minutes after Fiorentina's Argentine inter-

national Daniel Passarella had sent his penalty high over the bar.

Verona now lead the first division by three points from second-placed Internazionale with eight games left.

In Milan, where a capacity crowd of 80,000 paid a league record 1.3 billion lire (\$610,000) at the San Siro stadium, Antonio Virdis headed home a Ray Wilkins free kick to put A.C. Milan 1-0 ahead in the 24th minute.

But four minutes after the interval Inter's Karl-Heinz Rummenigge hit a superb equaliser, beating two defenders on the run before scoring with a powerful diagonal shot.

Sandro Altobelli put Inter 2-1 up 10 minutes from time but Vinicio Verza denied them both points five minutes later when he coolly lobbed Inter goalkeeper Wal-

ter Zenga for the equaliser.

Brazilian midfielder Junior converted a 21st minute penalty to put Torino 1-0 ahead in their clash with Sampdoria.

Aldo Serena had a second-half goal disallowed for the home side before Sampdoria's 20-year-old striker Roberto Mancini equalised with a fierce 62nd minute effort.

Polish midfielder Zbigniew Boniek added to Roma's recent problems by guiding teammate Paolo Rossi's cross past goalkeeper Franco Tancredi to give Juventus a 53rd minute lead.

But Roma, who bid to overturn Bayern Munich's 2-0 first leg lead in their European Cupwinners' Cup quarter-final on Wednesday without injured Brazilian midfielder Falcao, earned a share of the points with a 66th minute Sebastiano Nela equaliser.

Napoli moved up a place in the table with a 1-0 win over Atalanta thanks to a first-half goal by Argentine Daniel Berton. Udinese also underlined their late-season recovery with a 2-0 win over visiting Avellino.

Frenchman Michel Platini remained top scorer in the league with 15 goals despite not scoring Sunday. Maradona of Napoli is second with 11 and Altobelli moved third by netting his 10th of the season.

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Tapie builds empire out of failures

PARIS — "The pessimists think I will break my neck in five months' time and the optimists say I'll probably break it in five years," Mr. Bernard Tapie, the extrovert French entrepreneur who has built a FF6 billion (\$589 million) conglomerate from a string of small and medium-sized bankrupt companies, recently told a group of middle aged managers in Paris.

Mr. Tapie often addresses business and student seminars. "I do about one a week," he says.

On this occasion he rolled up in his Turbo Porsche and immediately lived up to the proceedings by his provocative business approach. "In France, you can either be regarded as a fool if you fail or you are suspected of being a crook if you succeed. I frankly prefer to be suspected."

He then explained why he goes round preaching his business views. "I think you have to shake up the French mentality which regards profits as something rather sordid."

In recent months, Mr. Tapie has become a French media star. He features on the covers of business publications and glossy magazines, rivaling at times the Grimaldi girls from Monaco for popular exposure.

One moment he appears on television next to the French crooner Sacha Distel and the next in a documentary about the recession.

His name is always a lively subject of conversation at any business lunch. He provokes admiration in many people, including cabinet ministers and a number of bankers and businessmen. But he

also provokes doubts, envy and distaste among many others.

"If I really were all the things I read about myself, I don't think I would ever want to go out to dinner with the likes of me," he remarks.

In seven years, Mr. Tapie has taken over 45 bankrupt French companies in sectors ranging from health foods to bathroom scales to television to ski bindings to jeans and high fashion.

Turnover soars

The turnover of his group has increased from FF5 million in 1977 to about FF6 billion last year. He says all the subsidiaries of his group make money. The group itself earned another FF135 million last year.

Mr. Tapie has continued to expand by recently acquiring control of Pile Wonder, the troubled French battery manufacturer which will add another FF1.5 billion to his group's total sales this year.

Mr. Tapie's success largely rests on his mastery of France's complicated bankruptcy laws and a flair for picking up crippled businesses with recovery potential.

"One out of every two companies that files for bankruptcy in France has no reason to die completely," he claims.

From a humble background, Mr. Tapie worked for several years as a business consultant specialising on bankruptcies after graduating from an undistinguished Paris engineering school and trying his hand both at

motor racing and showbusiness. As a consultant, he could probably run companies far better than the managers and owners he was advising.

At the beginning he suffered some setbacks, including the colourful affair in which he tried to buy and resell four chateaux belonging to the exiled Central African emperor Jean-Bedel Bokassa. But in retrospect, the Bokassa affair gave him huge media exposure at very little cost.

A compulsive communicator, Mr. Tapie says he has always sought to gain the biggest possible exposure at the lowest cost. His decision to sponsor a professional cycling team including Bernard Hinault, one of France's most popular sports figures and a past winner of the prestigious Tour de France race, has helped give his group major marketing notoriety for some of its products.

Mr. Tapie's technique is first to identify a bankrupt company in a sector where the competition is weak, since the recovery of the bankrupt concern will ultimately rest on its ability to compete in its market. "If a video tape recorder company went broke, I wouldn't buy it because the competition is too strong."

Switching maturity dates

He then usually buys majority control of the company for a symbolic franc and draws up an agreement with the bankruptcy courts enabling him to freeze the concern's debts for two to three years. At the same time he negotiates a concordat with the banks to consolidate short-term debt into the longer term with repayments spread over 10 to 12 years following the 2-3 year grace period. He then starts to restructure the company, cutting back staff, improving production and launching aggressive marketing campaigns.

In this he uses as much psychology as business techniques. His gift as a communicator usually enables him to secure very quick union approval for layoffs.

Mr. Tapie has now built up a series of divisions in his group which operate autonomously as long as they stay in budget and make profits. He has a health and dietetic food division grouping companies like La Vie Claire, Omnivivantes and L'Herbier de Provence.

He has built up a bathroom and industrial scales division including Terrillon, a company he is now considering launching on the French secondary bourse market in the spring. He also has plans to float La Vie Claire on the secondary market in the autumn.

He is now seeking to strengthen his ski-binding subsidiary "Look" by expanding its product range.

In the fashion business, he has taken control of Gres, one of the venerable French haute couture houses, but he is also in the business of distributing Wrangler jeans and casual clothes of the MicMac sports wear concern and of Kickers, the shoe manufacturer, in France and the Benelux countries.

He has long had his eye on the large but troubled Bousac textile group, but says he decided not to put in a bid for the company because

he would not have been allowed to lay off sufficient workers. With Pile Wonder, France's second largest battery maker which he snatched from a rival group including Banque Worms and Continental d'Entreprise (a subsidiary of the Swiss Electrowatt group), he is looking for a partner to strengthen Wonder's position in the market.

Indeed, Mr. Tapie seems keen to negotiate a deal with SAFT, the battery subsidiary of the large French nationalised CGE group. Wonder had a loss of FF50 million last year and Mr. Tapie says it will report a profit of about FF50 million this year after restructuring and the reduction of about 1,000 jobs out of a total of 2,400 jobs.

He claims productivity has already sharply improved at Wonder.

Critics expect downfall

Many of Mr. Tapie's critics think that his conglomerate could fall apart as quickly as it was erected. They argue that Mr. Tapie has benefited from the French bankruptcy system allowing him to freeze debts for a number of years, but as he accumulates more companies and more debts he will have to face the day of reckoning eventually.

Mr. Tapie rejects these criticisms and suggests there are a lot of people just waiting for him to put a foot wrong. "They are often the same people who come to me with business proposals but who in public go around saying my businesses are not sound."

His companies are all meeting their debt repayment obligations in time, he declares. His group's total debts amounted to FF450 million last year. This year some FF600 million debt will be added from the recently acquired Wonder battery company.

Moreover, Mr. Tapie says he is now unlikely to buy up new companies in new sectors. Instead, he intends to concentrate in his current range of business activities which could, of course, involve new acquisitions. He is also looking with increasing interest at opportunities abroad, especially in the U.S.

Consolidation pause

Mr. Tapie's conglomerate building appears to have entered what he calls a "consolidation pause", but this is likely to be short lived.

Youthful and good looking, he is a man who seems to be in a constant hurry. He now also has to live up to an image which has transformed him into a national figure.

Only the other day Le Monde, the Paris afternoon newspaper, referred on its front page to a public opinion poll on the kind of government the French dream of. Apart from the usual crop of leading political figures, the poll suggested that the French would like to see in a government the likes of Yves Montand, the actor and singer, Commander Jacques Cousteau, the marine expert, and Mr. Bernard Tapie — Financial Times news feature.

Indian budget invigorates economy

NEW DELHI (Agencies) — Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi's first national budget, unveiled Saturday, reflects his desire to liberalise Indian economic policy by lifting curbs on high technology imports and allowing a greater role for the private sector.

The budget for the new fiscal year, beginning April 1, has a record deficit of 36.6 billion rupees (\$2.8 billion at the current exchange rate).

"We have to initiate a process of reform which can be completed in a phased manner in a time-bound frame," Finance Minister Vishwanath P. Singh said, presenting the budget to parliament. He pledged to "create an environment for growth, productivity and savings."

Opposition lawmakers criticised the budget, saying it offered little to the common Indian. "From now on, the public sector will play second fiddle to private industry. Multinationals will enter from the front-door in the name of modernisation," Mr. Jaipal Reddy of the former ruling Janata (People's) Party said.

The budget called for spending 76.8 billion rupees (\$5.9 billion) on defence — an increase of 13 per cent over budget appropriations for fiscal 1984-85 and 6.6 per cent over the increased amount ultimately spent.

The military outlay represents 15 per cent of the total national spending. The army gets the lion's share: 47 billion rupees (\$3.6 billion).

The budget recommended no fresh investments in the troubled public sector without "better utilisation of existing capacity and higher return on past investments."

It granted important concessions to the electronic industry

and permitted import of sophisticated computers. Mr. Gandhi, considered a computer buff, said recently that if India were to progress, "to keep up with the world", it needed to rapidly modernise its electronic industry.

In an attempt to fight the deficit, the government proposed a 200 per cent increase in the duty on crude petroleum, to collect 6.2 billion rupees (\$477 million) in additional revenue.

Late Saturday, the government announced an immediate 15-per cent rise in prices of petroleum products — an action that is bound to trigger strong protests. Gasoline will now sell at 23.35 rupees (\$1.8) a gallon.

The price hike was aimed at raising more resources for oil and natural gas exploration and to curb rising demand for petroleum products, an official statement said.

The finance minister earlier said in his budget speech that domestic oil production had increased from 11.4 million tonnes to nearly 30 million tonnes in less than five years. The sharp rise has enabled the government to cut imports and conserve foreign exchange.

Economic liberalisation said the large budget deficit, coupled with the petroleum price hike and 10 per cent increase in railroad freight charges, was likely to spur inflation. According to authorities, the current inflation rate is estimated to be 5.2 per cent.

The budget called for higher taxes on commercial vehicles,

cement, paper, soft drinks, vegetable oils and better quality soaps. It, however, proposed reduction in duties on computers, small black-and-white television sets, leather processing machinery and woolen textiles.

It also abolished licences for television, video and radio sets.

The budget, seeking to rationalise the tax structure, offered a 5 per cent company tax reduction to the corporate sector and major income tax concessions to the middle-class taxpayer.

Income tax in India is one of the highest in the world but contributes only one percent to the national treasury because of widespread tax evasion.

Mr. Singh said the government would toughen law and set up special courts to try income tax evaders.

Reflecting the new government's desire to check the population explosion, the budget proposed a 5 billion rupee (\$385 million) outlay for family planning, a 13.6 per cent increase over the past year. India's population, currently estimated at 750 million, is growing at the rate of 2 per cent a year.

The government proposed 29 billion rupees (\$2.2 billion) in food and fertilizer subsidies. India substantially increased agricultural subsidies last year after it ended a major credit agreement with the International Monetary Fund without accepting the final loan instalment.

Economic liberalisation has encouraged U.S. firms to renew interest in business opportunities in India.

The U.S. soft drink giant, Pepsi, recently signed a major joint venture agreement to invest \$125 million in the local manufacture of



Rajiv Gandhi

Businesses welcome budget

Meanwhile, businessmen Sunday welcomed Mr. Gandhi's first national budget.

"An entrepreneur's dream budget," the National Alliance of Young Entrepreneurs said in a statement.

"It is a budget which is certain to invigorate the economy as never before... an extraordinary budget which should gladden the heart of almost everyone," the Hindustan Times newspaper said.

Stock prices across the country rose following the budget and the daily Financial Express share index closed at 197.05, a gain of 2.07.

"The budget reflects Gandhi's philosophy to maintain growth with stability. It proposes to remove constraints on investment and modernisation of the economy," finance secretary Mr. S. Venkataramanan told reporters.

"The budget has attempted to reform the entire taxation system as never before," banking secretary Mr. Bimal Jalan said.

Japanese carmakers hope to boost U.S. sales

TOKYO (R) — Despite strong government calls for "orderly exports," Japanese automakers hope to increase substantially their shipments to the United States from April when "voluntary" restraints are lifted.

When President Ronald Reagan announced on March 1 that he will not ask Japan to continue restraints for a fifth year, Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI) immediately urged Toyota Motor Corp., Nissan Motor Co. and other Japanese makers to refrain from a "torrential" export offensive.

The firms welcomed Mr. Reagan's decision, but MITI reportedly is seeking an alternative form of limits to prevent a free-for-all which could further impair strained trade relations with the United States.

Japan's auto exports to the United States account for an estimated \$16 billion, or more than 40 per cent of the huge \$36.8 billion U.S. trade deficit with Japan.

For three years until March 1984, Japan kept U.S.-bound car exports to 1.68 million vehicles to provide Detroit and Michigan manufacturers breathing room while they rebuilt their industry.

The figure was increased to 1.85 million for a fourth Japanese fiscal year ending March 31 this year. Because the MITI-set quota was decided according to U.S.



Datsum production line at Nissan's Tochigi plant

sales before April 1981, the smaller exporters have complained of being unfairly penalised by the restraints.

Allotments for the year ending March 31 are: Toyota — 29.8 per cent, 551,800 cars; Nissan — 26.3 per cent, 487,100; Honda Motor Co. Ltd. — 20.1 per cent, 372,400; Mazda Motors Co. — 9.4 per cent, 173,500; Mitsubishi Motors Corp. — 6.6 per cent, 122,400; Fuji Heavy Industries (Subaru) — 4.1 per cent, 75,800; Isuzu Co. Ltd. — 2.7 per cent, 50,000 and Suzuki Motors Co. Ltd. — 1.0 per cent, 17,000.

By early next month, MITI could ask carmakers to adhere to a new set of quotas with an anticipated increase in shipments to at least 2.1 million vehicles, a minimum figure compiled before March by auto industry leaders in case the United States asked for a fifth year of voluntary restraint.

Meanwhile, individual companies have their own, more ambitious, plans which, if realised, could boost exports to as high as 2.75 million units.

Complicating the issue are "captive imports," or Japanese cars shipped to General Motors Corp. and Chrysler Corp. for sale under U.S. brand names.

In a bid to compete with Japan in the then-rapidly expanding subcompact car market, General

Motors (G.M.) in 1981 and 1982 signed tie-up contracts with Isuzu for 200,000 vehicles and Suzuki Motor Co. for 84,000 autos a year starting April 1984.

But with the fourth year of restrictions, Isuzu was able to provide G.M. with only 30,000 cars, and Suzuki's exports were cut to 17,000 units.

"We couldn't meet the terms of the contract (when G.M.) because the voluntary restraint continued for a fourth year. Therefore it's a matter of course that our exports should increase after it is lifted," Isuzu President Kazuo Tobiya said before Mr. Reagan's March 1 announcement.

YOUR DAILY Horoscope

from the Carroll Righter Institute

FORECAST FOR MONDAY, MARCH 18, 1985

GENERAL TENDENCIES: A conventional and conservative man will aid you to make a well-organized plan to gain your long-time objectives, but a woman can interfere if you permit.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) Early get going on fascinating activities and make progress even though later some cranky individual tries to upset you.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) A partner could try to interfere with some project at hand, but take this in stride and persevere.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) Someone may prevent you from carrying through with a project, so handle tasks quickly and carry on.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to Jul. 21) It is wiser to get important plans worked out than to go out for a good time. Express talents well.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21) You can have a very happy time today, provided you early get rid of annoyances at home. Don't take foolish risks.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) Concentrate on how to make your home more charming and then invite guests in for the evening.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) Some monetary affair that has been dragging for some time must not keep you from seeing those who can help you.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Put aside personal desires and concentrate on property and monetary matters of importance. Get advice from an expert.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) A secret worry could deter your progress in the outside world, if you permit. Get busy at important activities.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) A fine day for making plans to get what you most desire and then carrying through in a positive way.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) A day to be more modern in concept and thereby accomplish a great deal. Be gregarious and make fine new contacts.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) You have fine ideas and should plan just how to use them to your greatest advantage. Adhere to tried and true supporters.

IF YOUR CHILD IS BORN TODAY... he or she will understand current conditions plus having an insight into the future, but may want to hang on to the past, which could seriously hamper the fine success that is possible during this lifetime.

THE Daily Crossword

by N.E. Campbell

ACROSS

- Art. river
- Say suddenly (with "out")
- Sponsorship
- Former Ugandan leader
- Uncanny
- Company symbol
- Final opportunity
- On the peak
- Realm
- Solene
- Roster
- Orchid tuber
- Kind of club
- Gaudy
- Scot. hill-sides
- More docile
- Wilt area
- Small rolls
- Kitchen knife
- Old Eng. poet
- Football player
- Fe or Monks
- Surface for inscriptions
- Kills
- 45 in high spirits
- Under to a poet
- Sharp in taste
- Great
- Used a certain golf club
- Small liquid container
- Fla. resort city
- Fish-sewing bird
- Young owl
- Puerto —
- Fox
- Men of vision
- Large amount

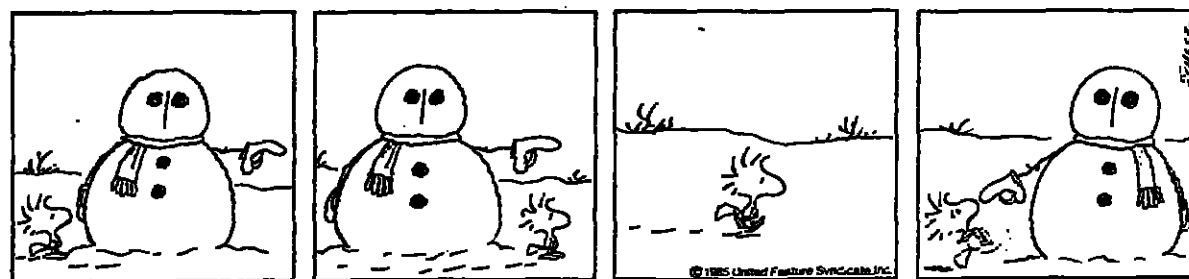
DOWN

- Strong wind
- Moslem leader
- Speak imperfectly
- Island group
- Command
- Varn measure
- Vases
- Elmer and Grandland
- Adolescent
- Cheek beetle
- Loss of control
- Gorin or Stravinsky
- 13 Bikes
- Yells
- 22 Having wings
- 24 Giant
- 26 Fr. priestly title
- 27 Steamer or Saratoga
- 28 Together
- 29 Bill of fare
- 31 Purloined
- 32 Desired
- 33 Intended
- 36 Recreation activities
- 39 Speaks imperfectly
- 41 The Man
- 42 Busty plant
- 44 Singed
- 46 Haggard
- 48 — Selesale
- 50 Desires to be true
- 51 Grow weary
- 52 Wheel hub
- 54 Follow closely
- 55 — homo
- 56 Indian Ocean
- 58 Dearest
- 59 Mal de —

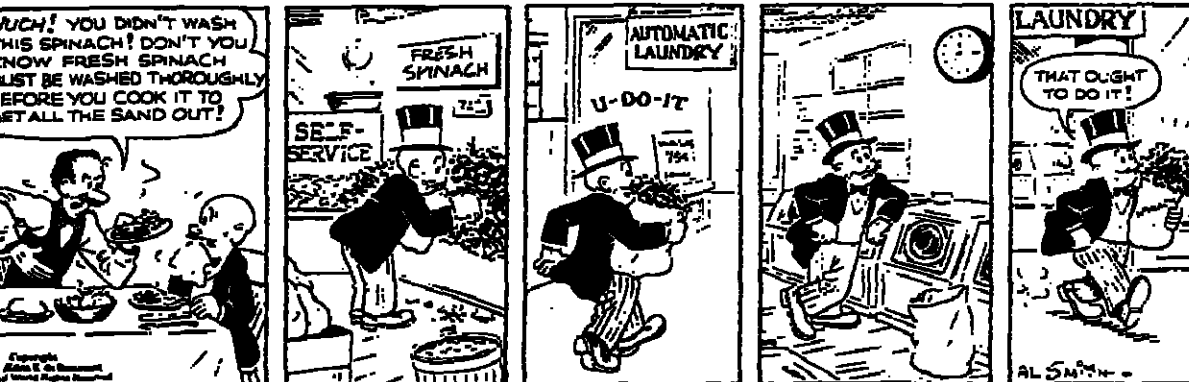
Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:

ABARIAT ACIO YON
BOGOTA SORE ROE
AWAKEN SNEW ICE
CAN BRENDIGNEY
ANA BILLY GIAN
LAVENDER IDEA
ALAMO SIC AVEAR
MOLE BURGUNDY
PETERS DEJAN
GIORGIO GIAN
BLUODIANOE ALLI
LIV BLEN OLIVER
ASE EISTE PAMINE
SPA BISS PRATER

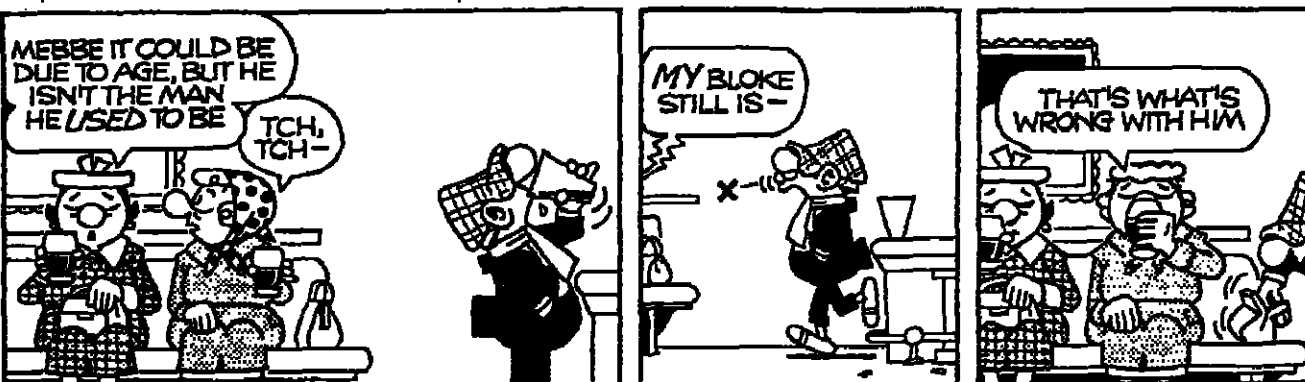
Peanuts



Mutt 'n' Jeff

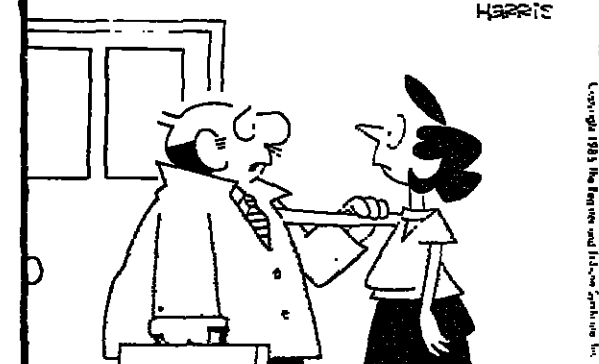


Andy Capp



THE BETTER HALF

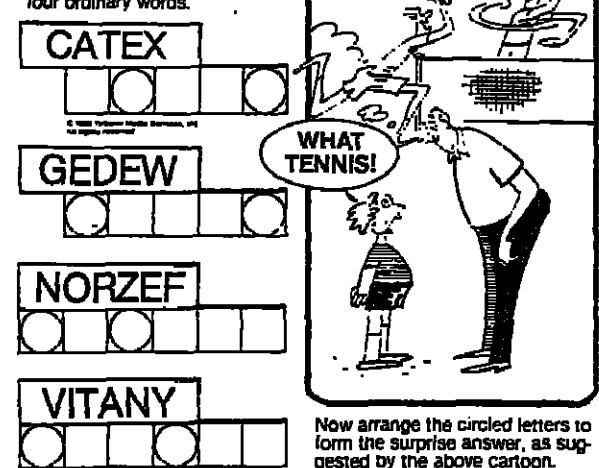
By Harris



"Not one of my better days. I made my computer cry."

JUMBLE

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.



Answer here: (Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: CHAOS MANLY WEEVIL REFUGE
Answer: What some so-called "good boys" in Wall Street often turn out to be — "FAREWELLS"

Thousands protest Belgian cruise missile deployment

BRUSSELS (R) — Anti-nuclear campaigners held a rally in Central Brussels Sunday and called on parliament to throw out the government for having installed cruise nuclear missiles.

Organisers said about 50,000 people might take part in the march but police said they expected no more than 20,000. Karel Van Miert, leader of the opposition Flemish Socialist Party, said the government had shown contempt for parliament by not announcing the decision until 16 of the U.S. missiles were on their way to their site in Florennes on Friday. Van Miert said the installation of the missiles under a 1979 NATO agreement made Belgium less safe. Prime Minister Wilfried Martens said on television that deployment of the missiles strengthened Belgium's credibility with its allies. He said the government alone had the right to decide on matters of defence and

security but parliament could refuse to approve the government's plans. His three-year-old coalition faces a confidence vote in parliament this week on the missile deployment and on its economic austerity programme. Mr. Martens' own Flemish Christian Social Party (CVP) is divided over the missiles. The CVP is traditionally the most powerful party in the country but opinion polls show it is increasingly challenged by the Socialists. Political sources said several CVP members might abstain in the vote, threatening the government's six-seat majority, but support from fringe opposition parties should help the coalition to survive. The deployment means Bel-

gium joins Britain, Italy and West Germany in installing medium-range missiles which NATO says are needed to counter those deployed by the Soviet Union in Europe.

Mr. Martens said Sunday he respected the convictions of the anti-cruise campaigners but accused them of supporting unilateral disarmament, which they deny. He said Belgium's allies agreed that any further delay would not help to bring a settlement at the new U.S.-Soviet arms control talks which began in Geneva on March 12.

Paul Janssens, secretary of the Flemish Action Committee against nuclear weapons, said the anti-missile movement would challenge the government's cruise deployment before the council of state, Belgium's highest judicial body.

The missile question has threatened to split Mr. Martens' four-party coalition of Social Christians and Liberals.



THEY CAN DO IT TOO: A robot plays the organ at the Tsukuba Expo '85 in Japan (AP wirephoto)

Soviets reportedly deploy SS-25s

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — The Soviet Union has apparently begun to deploy its new mobile intercontinental missile, the SS-25, the Washington Post reported Sunday.

The Post said U.S. intelligence had also detected signs that the Soviet Union was destroying some older silo-based missiles.

The newspaper quoted intelligence sources as saying there were signs of deployment of the single-warhead SS-25 at two Soviet missile fields.

A total of 48 concrete shelters had been prepared for the mobile missiles at the two bases and a number of missiles were expected to be installed over the next six months.

The Post said the issue of the new Soviet missiles was certain to come up in the early stages of the strategic nuclear arms discussions which began between the two nations last Tuesday in Geneva.

Meanwhile the chief Soviet negotiator at the Geneva arms talks said Saturday he believes the United States is trying to "revise the understanding" reached on the issue of space weapons.

"Some statements made in Washington by officials in connection with the talks cannot help but put one on his guard," Viktor

Karpov said in an interview on the nightly television news programme "Vremya."

"One can feel in them the ambition to revise the understanding on the subject, tasks and objectives of the talks, which was reached in the course of the meeting on Jan. 7-8 between (Soviet Foreign Minister) Andrei Gromyko and U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz, for example, on outer space," Mr. Karpov said.

It was the first substantive Soviet statement on the Geneva talks since they began Tuesday in the Swiss city.

The American delegation is led by Max Kampelman.

"There is an impression," Mr. Karpov said, "that the American side would like to discuss at the talks not the question of ensuring peaceful outer space, not to prohibit the deployment of strike space weapons, but to lecture on the alleged benefits of the American Star Wars concept, which in its essence directed at making outer space a source of military threat to mankind."

The Soviets have stated repeatedly that the U.S. administration's Strategic Defence Initiative (SDI), known as Star Wars, threatens the success of the arms talks.

They have insisted on an accord on preventing militarisation of space must be reached if there is any chance for agreement in the other two areas being negotiated — strategic and medium-range nuclear weapons.

The Kremlin also said Mr. Shultz and Mr. Gromyko agreed the issues of space and earth-based weapons would be interrelated in the negotiations.

"The Soviet side will press ahead at the talks for the understanding of Jan. 8 to be in its entirety a basis for a serious discussion of space and nuclear weapons," Mr. Karpov said.

"Only such an approach, which provides for the examination of the questions entrusted to the delegations in a package, can lead to the attainment of mutually acceptable results."

Mr. Karpov leads the Soviet team's negotiations on the space weapons issue. Two other delegations from each side will hold separate talks on the reductions of strategic and medium-range nuclear missiles.

U.S. officials have said they will continue research on a space-based defence system, but will negotiate with the Soviets before deploying one.

French opposition hopes for big gains in elections

PARIS (R) — France's right-wing opposition was hoping for major gains over the ruling Socialists in voting Sunday for the second round of local elections.

The right won almost 58 per cent of the vote in the first round of the cantonal elections a week ago compared with 41 per cent for the left.

If the upward trend for the opposition is confirmed, the left will lose control of between six and 15 departmental councils, prompting President Francois Mitterrand to announce a major electoral reform before a new National Assembly is chosen in a year's time.

Mr. Mitterrand had said he favoured the introduction of some proportional representation in the present system whereby a candidate that does not win an overall majority in the first round faces a first-past-the-post runoff in a second round of voting.

Sunday's runoffs will take place in 1,231 cantons, nearly two thirds the number of cantons in which voting was held last Sunday.

The past seven days of the campaign have been dominated by a surge of the extreme right National Front Party which captured almost nine per cent of the first round vote.

The National Front, headed by Jean-Marie Le Pen, fared particularly well in the south, winning a quarter of the vote in Marseilles, a town whose mayor is Gaston Defferre, a senior Socialist figure and cabinet member.

A call by centre-right politician Jean-Claude Gaudin, Mr. Defferre's main local rival, to stand down in favour of the National Front in one canton provoked outcry among his own UDF Party.

UDF leaders such as Simone Veil and Pierre Mchaignerie said it was better for the opposition to lose seats rather than to ally with Le Pen, who scored major gains on an anti-immigrant, law-and-order platform.

COLUMN

130-year-old takes 37-year-old bride

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan (AP) — Hafiz Ghulam Qadir, reportedly 130 years old, recently married for the third time and his bride is nearly a century younger than himself, a Pakistani news agency said Saturday. His latest wife is only 37. Qadir's oldest son, Ghulam Rasul, is 90. Qadir heads a family of 100 sons, daughters and grandchildren. The Guinness Book of Records lists a Japanese, Shigechiyo Izumi, as the oldest living human with an authenticated age of 119. Qadir, interviewed by the domestic news agency Pakistan Press International (PPI), attributed his longevity to simple habits. He said he does not smoke, nor does he drink. He said he keeps fit by going shopping in the local bazaar each day. "I feel the vigor of a young man in my freckled body," Qadir was quoted as saying. PPI did not say where he lives.

1851 stamp sold for 2.3m marks

WIESBADEN, West Germany (AP) — An extremely rare 1851 stamp from the German State of Baden was sold for 2.3 million marks (\$676,470) at an auction of an American businessman's collection. The price was the highest ever paid for a stamp in West Germany — and one of the highest worldwide, according to traders and auction house employees. They said a 1-cent stamp issued in British Guiana in 1856 was auctioned in the early 1970s for \$700,000, the equivalent of 2 million marks at the time. The Baden stamp, an "off-colour misprint," was worth nine kreuzer — roughly equivalent to today's pfennig, or a hundredth of a mark — when it was issued. The stamp, mistakenly printed on green paper instead of the intended pink, had been listed in the auction house catalogue for 1.5 million marks (\$441,170).

Fake drugs smuggled into Third World

LONDON (R) — Growing quantities of fake and potentially lethal antibiotics are being smuggled into the Third World, according to a report in Sunday Observer newspaper. Manufactured in countries from Taiwan to the Balkans, the fake drugs have labels and packaging expertly copied from the products of international drug companies, the newspaper said. Sometimes the contents were close imitations of the genuine medicine, others were fake mixtures like aspirin and starch. The Beecham Group had introduced a special packaging for its anti-bacterial drug Ampiclox, used to treat septic abortions, since it discovered widespread counterfeiting in Nigeria, the Observer said.

Singapore president admitted to hospital

SINGAPORE (R) — Singapore President Devan Nair has been admitted to hospital with serious liver failure, the government said Sunday. It said in a statement that Mr. Nair, 61, became ill while on holiday in the east Malaysian state of Sarawak and was flown home Saturday night. "The president was admitted into Singapore General Hospital for serious liver failure. This has caused erratic behaviour. He is momentarily clear and at times confused," it said. The former chief of Singapore's Trades Union Movement, Mr. Nair became president, a largely ceremonial post, in 1981. He was to have returned to Singapore Sunday.

Ex-Red Guard finds new freedoms in China

PEKING (AP) — Liang Heng, an ex-Red Guard who described growing up under Chairman Mao "as tuning in the book Son of America to judge Communist China's recent transformation for himself," "China seems very new and different. The people are tired of political movements, tired of revolution," Liang, 30, said after a four-year absence. "It's colourful, with discos and people wearing beautiful clothes. China's national spirit is coming back," the former rebel, now a U.S. citizen, said in an interview Sunday. "Deng Xiaoping's policies are welcomed by ordinary people. They feel free. They talk about earning money and raising living standards. Intellectual freedom is the greatest it's been since before 1949."

Sartzetakis loses first presidential ballot

ATHENS (AP) — Supreme Court Judge Christos Sartzetakis failed to capture the required 200 votes for election as Greece's president in the first round of voting in parliament on Sunday. But the 56-year-old judge may just make it in the third and final ballot on March 29, when only 180 votes are needed.

Mr. Sartzetakis, picked as the ruling Pan-Hellenic Socialist Movement's (PASOK) candidate instead of incumbent President Constantine Caramanlis, won 178 votes from the 297 deputies who took part in the secret ballot.

The conservative opposition New Democracy Party's 112 deputies were present in the chamber, but abstained from voting to protest the Socialist's last-minute decision to reject Mr. Caramanlis as a consensus candidate.

Three deputies cast blank ballots and three were ruled invalid. Three deputies did not take part in the vote.

Alternate Foreign Minister Carlos Papoulias was away on an official visit to Latin America.

while veteran conservative Constantine Papaconstantinou, a close friend of Mr. Caramanlis, sent a letter saying he would not attend.

Speaker of the House and Socialist Deputy Yiannis Alevras, who is serving as acting head of state until a new president is elected, did not vote.

Parliament is due to decide on Monday whether he is still eligible to vote in the presidential election while carrying out the president's duties.

Mr. Caramanlis resigned last Sunday in protest against Premier Andreas Papandreu's plans to amend the 1975 constitution. 24 hours after he was dropped without warning as the Socialist's candidate for reelection to a second five-year term.

According to the results of Sunday's ballot, Mr. Alevras' vote now becomes essential if Mr. Sartzetakis is to win election.

If he fails to become president, parliament will be dissolved immediately and National Elections

will be called for May 5, in accordance with the 1975 constitution.

Hundreds of left-wing youths jeered deputies from Mr. Caramanlis's New Democracy Party as they arrived for the vote.

The demonstrators outside parliament shouted, "the president must be elected by this parliament."

Failure to elect Mr. Sartzetakis will impede the Socialist's plans to revise the constitution, transferring the head of state's executive powers to parliament and the premier.

The constitutional revisions have been presented to parliament but must be voted through on two occasions, one month apart.

In addition, the next parliament to be elected must also approve the revisions before they can go into effect.

Greece is due to hold parliamentary elections by November at the latest, when the Socialist's four-year term runs out.

Conservative party feud resurfaces

LONDON (R) — A feud in Britain's ruling Conservative Party resurfaced Sunday in a row between former Prime Minister Edward Heath and a top supporter of his successor Margaret Thatcher.

Former government minister Nicholas Fairbairn called the bachelor Heath a woman-hater and derided his "blubbing" over the way Mrs. Thatcher ousted him as party leader 10 years ago.

He made his attack after Mr.

Heath, in a television programme shown Saturday night, effectively accused the Thatcher camp of using dirty tricks to unseat him in the leadership campaign.

Mr. Heath, prime minister from 1970-74, said Mrs. Thatcher's supporters attributed "grossly untrue" statements to him and conducted a "behind the scenes" campaign. He also attacked Mrs. Thatcher for celebrating her win with champagne.

It was his strongest personal

attack on the prime minister since Mrs. Thatcher took office in 1979.

Mrs. Thatcher has never offered him a government post and in the past two years Mr. Heath has become a regular critic in parliament of her economic and social policies.

Mr. Fairbairn, who was solicitor general for Scotland in Mrs. Thatcher's first administration, said in a speech Saturday night: "He has no place in the party: He has no future in parliament."

Ershad: Referendum will lay ground for democracy

DHAKA (R) — President Hosain Mohammad Ershad has said a national referendum due next week will create conditions for a quick end to military rule and restoration of democracy in Bangladesh.

He told a rally near the eastern town of Comilla Saturday the military government was still sincere about holding parliamentary elections any time after the March 21 plebiscite on his rule and policies.

Gen. Ershad blamed political groups for delaying the return to civil rule and warned he would

permit no one to foil the referendum or oppose his plans for a future parliamentary election.

He cancelled the elections, planned for next month, and imposed martial law early this month after opposition groups, headed by Begum Khaleda Zia and Sheikh Hasina Wazed, refused to participate.

The two have been under house arrest since March 2. Most other opposition leaders have gone into hiding to escape arrest following a ban on political activity.

Lawyer warns against Bhopal out-of-court settlement

NEW DELHI (R) — A just settlement of claims for compensation following the Bhopal gas disaster could amount to as much as \$10 billion, a U.S. public interest lawyer said Sunday.

Robert Hager, of the Washington-based, non-profit Christian Institute, said in an interview with Reuters that the U.S. Union Carbide Company faced "potentially the biggest industrial case ever, with more at stake than in any other."

On Dec. 3, poisonous gas leaked from a pesticides factory owned by the Indian subsidiary of Union Carbide in the central Indian city of Bhopal, killing some 2,500 people and injuring about 125,000 others.

A senior Indian official said a week ago that his government was prepared to consider foregoing litigation and settling with the multinational on claims for compensation.

"An out-of-court settlement would be a good thing if it came up with \$6 or \$7 billion. It is a theoretical possibility, but it does not seem to me to be a real one," Mr. Hager said.

"Erosion of the capital base of the company would put Union Carbide's directors and managers in jeopardy of a damages action on the part of shareholders," he said.

"But if this was given to a U.S. jury on the basis of what we already know of the medical situation in Bhopal... I'd come up with a figure of between \$50,000 and \$100,000 for each of the victims, or a total of about \$10 billion which is about the book value of the (Union Carbide) Company."

Last week, Indian Minister for Law Ashoke Sen told Reuters that a possible out-of-court settlement depended on compensation offered by Union Carbide.

China hints at crackdown on 'spiritual pollution'

PEKING (AP) — China's state-run press carried front-page commentaries Sunday criticising what they called irresponsible freedom and unsanctioned literature poisoning the Communist Party's economic reforms — new signs a crackdown is planned.

The Workers Daily complained about the resurgence of "spiritual pollution." The first time that term for foreign ideas has been used in many months.

The authoritative party mouthpiece People's Daily criticised "farfetched writings" extolling life's pleasures, while the Guangming daily reminded Chinese that Marxist freedom has limits.

The commentaries appeared to reflect growing concern within the ruling party that its reforms promoting economic liberties have unleashed a wave of uncontrolled abuse and could undermine the authoritarian political power it has held for 36 years.

They followed a high publicised warning by senior leader Deng Xiaoping on March 7 that China's ultimate goal remains Communism, and the reforms must not give rise to a class society.

The Workers Daily commented that a profusion of popular but unsanctioned street tabloids that have appeared recently, saying they cheat workers out of their hard-earned money with lurid tales of crime and sex.

"The spread of unhealthy tabloids has become an evil trend and has aroused the indignation of the broad masses of workers," the commentary said.

Mr. Gorbachev's arrangements for the funeral of his predecessor Konstantin Chernenko and his government activities over the past week show that he has a "vigorous and speedy working style," the official New China News Agency said in a preview of the signed magazine article.

The agency said Outlook also gave considerable space to Mr. Gorbachev's first speech as president of the Supreme Soviet.

The Outlook piece is the latest in a series of positive references to the Soviet Union carried in the Chinese media following Che-

Japanese uneasy about defence policy

TOKYO (R) — More than half of the Japanese people feel uneasy about Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone's push to bolster Japan's defences, according to an opinion poll published Sunday.

A survey of 3,000 people last week by the daily Asahi Shimbun showed 56 per cent felt uneasy about Mr. Nakasone's policy of strengthening Japan's defence capability quickly to cope with possible limited and small-scale aggression.

The daily said 58 per cent of those polled felt the nation should abide by its self-imposed limit of military spending — below one per cent of the Gross National Product (GNP).

The pro-Western Prime Minister, who once said he would make Japan an "unsinkable aircraft carrier" against possible Soviet attacks, told graduates of the Defence Academy Sunday the government would aim at qualitative and effective defence.

The current parliamentary session was temporarily stalled last month after Mr. Nakasone said he might have to break the traditional limit. His advisers argued last December it was time to scrap the one per cent limit because of the Soviet military buildup in Asia.

The poll also showed 61 per cent of the people rejected that argument.

The agency quoted Gen. Zia as talking of exemption for "elected members" and it was not immediately clear if it also would apply to losers in the elections.

Gen. Zia said the new National Assembly would "determine whether the elections in future should be fought on the strength of wealth or whether service to the people... should be the criteria."

Chinese Foreign Minister Wu Xueqian Saturday night gave a banquet for the SWAPO delegation.

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